OTONA NO MONDAI

ADULT'S PROBLEMS

BY

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SPECIAL THANKS TO:
YOCCHAN

CHAPTER 2 OF 5
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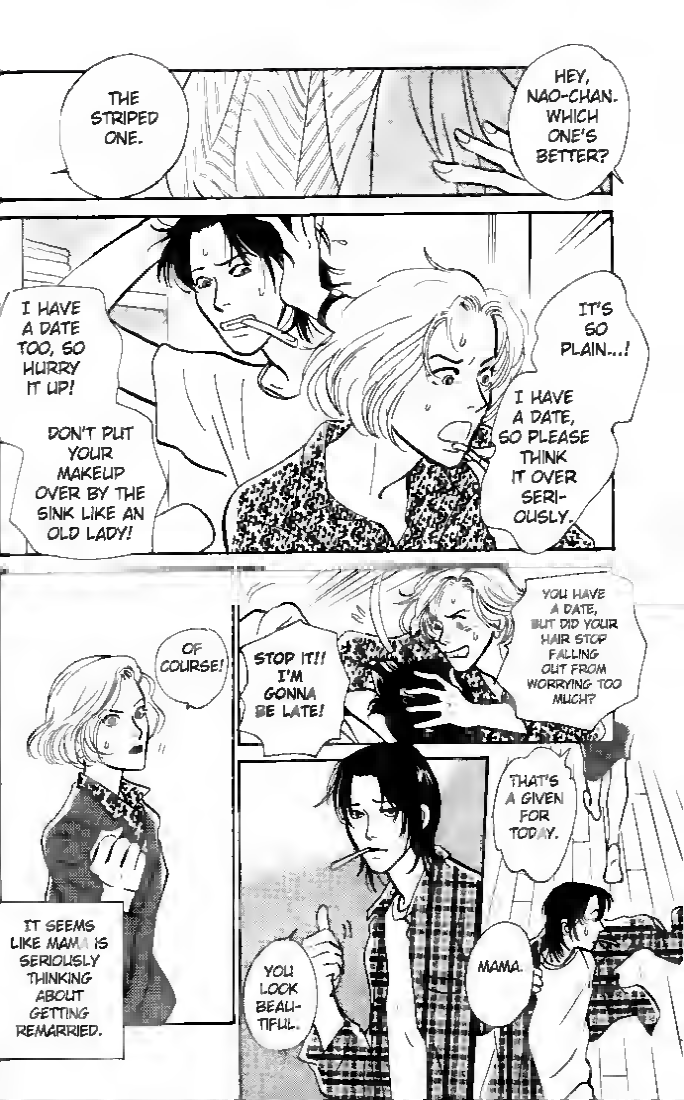
大人の問題Ⅱ


THE STRIPED ONE.
HEY, NAO-CHAN. WHICH ONE'S BETTER?
I HAVE A DATE TOO, SO HURRY IT UP!
DON'T PUT YOUR MAKEUP OVER BY THE SINK LIKE AN OLD LADY!
IT'S SO PLAIN...!
I HAVE A DATE, SO PLEASE THINK IT OVER SERI-OUSLY.
OF COURSE!
IT SEEMS LIKE MAMA IS SERIOUSLY THINKING ABOUT GETTING REMARRIED.
STOP IT!! I'M GONNA BE LATE!
YOU HAVE A DATE, BUT DID YOUR HAIR STOP FALLING OUT FROM WORRYING TOO MUCH?
YOU LOOK BEAU-TIFUL.
MAMA.
THAT'S A GIVEN FOR TODAY.

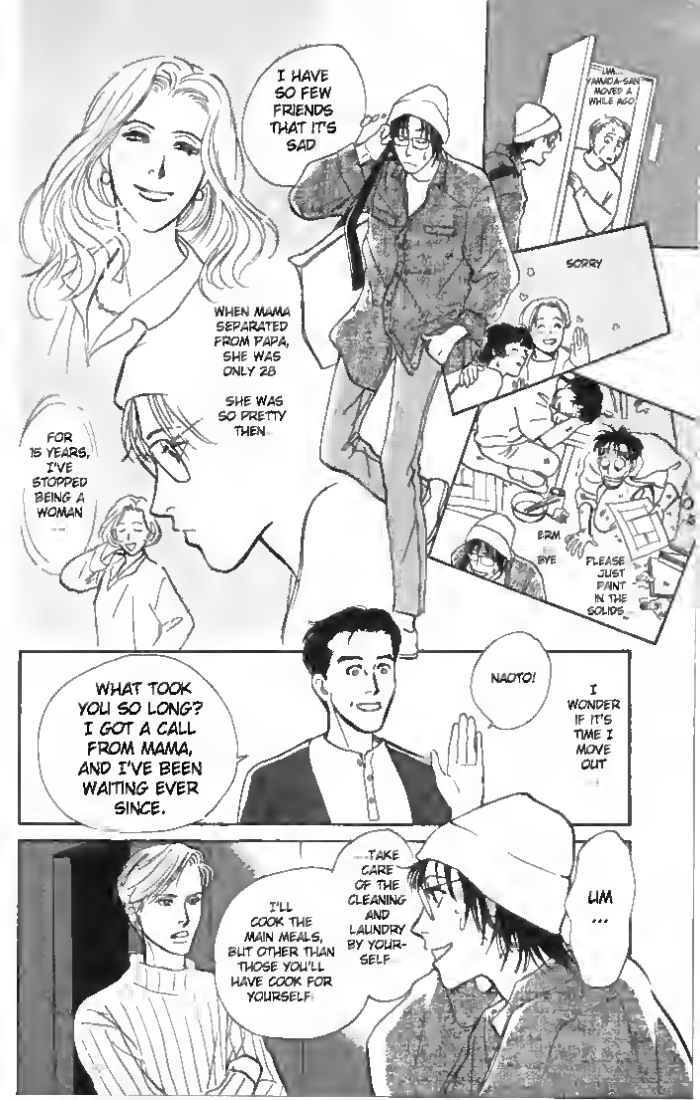
IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS.
I STILL SEE MY DAD SO IT'S LIKE A WHOLE FAMILY.
OH? THAT MUST HAVE BEEN LONESOME
I THINK IT'S A GOOD THING FOR HER TO FINALLY START THINKING ABOUT HER OWN LIFE
IN MY HOUSE, IF MY DAD GETS HIS HANDS ON THE MORNING PAPER WHEN HE'S IN THE BATHROOM HE'LL BE LOCKED UP IN THERE FOR 20 MINUTES
YOU'RE KIDDING!
WOW
FAMILIES ARE LIKE A LIVING HELL
IS THAT REALLY TRUE? MY PARENTS GOT DIVORCED 15 YEARS AGO, SO THERE WAS NEVER REALLY A MAN AROUND THE HOUSE
EH? DRESSED LIKE THIS?
YOU LOOK CUTE
THAT'S NOT THE POINT.
A WHOLE FAMILY?
ANYWAY, WE'RE EATING HERE TODAY.
NAOTO? WHAT A SURPRISE TO SEE YOU HERE.
PAPA!?
I HAVE A RESERVATION FOR HARASHIMA.
THE REST OF YOUR PARTY HAS ALREADY ARRIVED.
HUH?

HOW NICE! LET'S EAT TOGETHER!
IS SHE A FRIEND OF YOURS?
YES! NICE TO MEET YOU. MY NAME IS HARUNA KANDA.
BUT-
GRIMACE
CRAP, HE'S HERE TOO?
THAT EBIGORO!!
I THOUGHT IT WAS WEIRD THAT THEY SET A TABLE FOR FOUR.
THEY PROBABLY THOUGHT WE WERE TOGETHER SINCE BY CHANCE, WE EACH RESERVED A TABLE FOR HARASHIMA FOR THE SAME DAY.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE IT'S A FRIDAY NIGHT, SO ALL THE TABLES ARE FULL
NO.. I'LL JUST HAVE THEM GET US A SPARE TABLE
OH!
NICE TO MEET YOU TOO.
HOPELESS
NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M NAOTO'S OLDER BROTHER.

...I DIDN'T EXACTLY LIE TO HER.
UH ..I AM, BUT... HE'S MY BROTHER BY LAW...
...UH I MEAN, UH, PAPA GOT REMARRIED SO...
YOUR BROTHER IS SO HANDSOME.
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE AN ONLY CHILD?
I NEVER KNEW NAOTO HAD SUCH A CUTE GIRLFRIEND
STAGE SMILE
15 YEARS AGO, PAPA DISCOVERED ANOTHER SIDE TO HIMSELF (IN OTHER WORDS, HE'S GAY) AND DIVORCED MAMA.
SO A FEW MONTHS AGO, HE MARRIED THIS JEWELRY DESIGNER, GOROU EBI, WHO'S ONLY 6 YEARS OLDER THAN HIS OWN SON.
YES, WE'RE IN THE SAME SEMINAR AT COLLEGE.
OH NO I'M NOT HIS GIRLFRIEND
I FORGOT TO TELL MY DAD SOMETHING
AH, SORRY. COULD YOU WAIT A BIT?
GOOD NIGHT
THANK YOU FOR DINNER
WHAT'S WRONG, NAOTO? IT DOESN'T TASTE GOOD?
IT MEANS THAT HE OFFICIALLY ENTERED THE FAMILY REGISTRY.
BUT ACCORDING TO REGISTRY, HE'S MY OLDER BROTHER
WELL, WE ARE NEWLY WEDS.
WHAT IS A HOMO-SEXUAL COUPLE LIKE YOU DOING EATING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!?
IT'S GOT A NICE RING TO IT
DON'T YOU THINK?
I WAS CAREFUL THIS TIME TOO YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL

SHE SHOULD BE A SIZE 9
NEXT TIME LET'S GO HAVE TEA CEREMONY DISHES TOGETHER.
IT WAS A TOTAL FAILURE! IT WAS SO AWKWARD!
WELL, SHE'S A NICE GIRL. NOT SHOWY AT ALL.
WHAT'S HER RING SIZE?
BUT IT WAS MY FIRST REAL DATE!
DUNNO... NEVER SEEN HER.
I TOLD YOU, IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL.
HIS MOTHER MUST BE BEAUTIFUL
YOUR BROTHER IS SO HANDSOME
I-I'M SORRY. I SAID SOMETHING I SHOULDN'T HAVE. SHE'S YOUR NEW STEPMOTHER AFTER ALL.
AH
SIGH
THOSE TWO IDIOTS NEVER CHANGE
BLEH...
HE SAID THAT HIS BATHTUB IS BROKEN AND THAT IT'LL TAKE ABOUT A WEEK TO GET IT FIXED
DON'T RAMBLE ABOUT HIM. I DUN WANNA HEAR IT
IJUUIN? OH, THE MAN YOU'RE SEEING?
CHORE
SO I DECIDED TO INVITE HIM TO STAY HERE IN THE MEANTIME!
I'M HOME
NACTO-? LISTEN TO WHAT HAPPENED WITH IJUUIN-SAN TODAY-!

JUST FORGET ABOUT YOUR WHIRLWIND ROMANCE!!
ARE YOU GOING TO FORGET ABOUT YOUR SON TOO!? THAT'S ME, YOU KNOW!
WHAT ARE THE NEIGHBORS GOING TO THINK!?
...WHAT ARE YOU THINKING!? YOU'RE GOING TO BRING A MAN HOME!?
HOW COULD I FORGET? THAT WOULDN'T BE GOOD POOR NAO-CHAN, I COULDN'T HAVE YOU HERE UNDER THE SAME ROOF WITH MY LOVER.
JUST ONCE I WANT TO FORGET ABOUT BEING PROPER AND TRY TO LIVE IN A WHIRLWIND ROMANCE DOESN'T THAT SOUND NICE?
I'VE QUIT THINKING LIKE THAT FOR 15 YEARS, I'VE STOPPED BEING A WOMAN SO I COULD BE A GOOD MOTHER
!
SO THAT'S WHY YOU'LL BE STAYING AT PAPA'S HOUSE FOR THE WEEK.
OK?
DROP DEAD!!
YOU BASTARD!
I CAN'T STAY AT MY DAD'S PLACE. JUST LET ME STAY HERE FOR A WHILE.
WHAT? I DON'T BELIEVE THIS? WHAT ARE YOU-
DON'T YOU SEE WE HAVE A PROBLEM HERE!?
clat-ter
crash
HOW CRUEL ...
I HAVE NEITHER A FATHER NOR A MOTHER NOW....


I HAVE SO FEW FRIENDS THAT IT'S SAD
WHEN MAMA SEPARATED FROM PAPA, SHE WAS ONLY 28
SHE WAS SO PRETTY THEN
FOR 15 YEARS, I'VE STOPPED BEING A WOMAN
LIM, YAMADA-SAN MOVED A WHILE AGO
SORRY
ERM
BYE
PLEASE JUST PAINT IN THE SOLIDS
NAOTO!
I WONDER IF IT'S TIME I MOVE OUT
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG? I GOT A CALL FROM MAMA, AND I'VE BEEN WAITING EVER SINCE.
LIM ...
TAKE CARE OF THE CLEANING AND LAUNDRY BY YOURSELF
I'LL COOK THE MAIN MEALS, BUT OTHER THAN THOSE YOU'LL HAVE COOK FOR YOURSELF

I HEARD ABOUT IT
I KNOW YOU MET HIM AT SOME GAY CLUB, RIGHT?
I WAS ALSO SNAGGED AND DECEIVED IN THE BEGINNING TOO...
I KNOW THAT YOU'RE NOT VERY GOOD AT EXPRESSING YOUR FEELINGS. EVEN SO, I'M TRYING TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOU HERE.
OH, SO HE TRICKED ME AGAIN.
SO I ASKED THE DESIGN FIRM THAT GOROU WORKED AT TO MAKE THEM.
THERE WAS A PAIR OF RINGS THAT WAS TO BE PRESENTED AT MY COMPANY'S MEMORIAL CEREMONY.
HUH?
EVEN HERE I'LL BE UNDER THE SAME ROOF AS PAPA'S "WIFE".
I'LL CALCULATE THE FOOD EXPENSES AFTER-WARDS
ALSO PHONE EXPENSES AND-
ISN'T HE FUNNY?
HA HA HA
I WILL ADJUST IT AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU DON'T LIKE ABOUT THE DESIGN?
OH, SO THIS IS THE DESIGN
THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE DESIGN WAS GOROU...
THIS IS THE DESIGNER, EBI-SAN
I DIDN'T WANT HEAR THIS-
HE'S JUST RAMBLING ABOUT GOROU...
DINNER'S READY
HE WAS VERY DEDICATED, YOU COULD SAY-
BUT THE MORE HE ADJUSTED THE DESIGN THE WORSE IT GOT...
NICE TO MEET YOU.

WOW.
LET'S EAT!
HMMMM
I'LL HAVE TO ADMIT, HE CAN COOK.
ARE YOU SURE? THEN LET ME LEND YOU MY TEDDY BEAR.
WHAT ARE YOU DRAWING?
I'LL BE FINE SLEEPING WITH GOROU, SO YOU CAN STAY IN GOROU'S ROOM.
YOU SEEM TO BE GETTING ALONG FINE PAPA.
...I'LL JUST TAKE THE SOFA.
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A MARRIED COUPLE, IT FEELS LIKE YOU'RE JUST TWO MEN LIVING TOGETHER.
WELL I'M JUST SAVING IT FOR THE TIME BEING, SINCE MY ADOLESCENT SON IS HERE
ISN'T HE SILLY?
OH REALLY
YES
DOESN'T IT

A GIRL'S FASHION RING?
YOU REALLY DO EXPRESS YOURSELF WITH YOUR CREATIONS RATHER THAN WITH YOUR WORDS
IT'S NOTHING REALLY
WELL, ACTUALLY ...
ABOUT IJUUIN-SAN...
I WONDER IF SHE'S GETTING ALONG FINE NOW ..
AAH! I SAID IT!
I'M DATING HIM NOW!
I WONDER IF I'LL BE GETTING A NEW FATHER...
IF IJUUIN-SAN'S A GOOD PERSON, THAT'S FINE, BUT...
WHY DIDN'T YOU WAKE ME UP!?
IT'S ONLY SUNDAY.
SINCE YOU DIDN'T WAKE UP EARLIER, BREAKFAST IS ALL GONE
EEE-EH?
JUST KIDDING. IT'S IN THE FRIDGE.

WHAT'S YOUR HURRY SHEESH.
BEEP, YOU'RE FLINGING WATER EVERYWHERE
nag nag
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE OUT THE TRASH AND WASH THE DISHES THEN
DO YOU PLAN TO EAT LUNCH HERE TOO? IT'S SUNDAY, SO WHY DON'T YOU GO ON A DATE OR SOMETHING?
HOW NICE! I'M GLAD WE CAN SIT AROUND THE DINING TABLE WITH THE THREE OF US, THE FATHERS AND THE SON.
PAPA HAD A LOT OF LOVERS IN THE PAST.
BRIGORD-SAMA BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY NOW...
DON'T CALL ME BY THAT NAME!
SHUT IT!
SPIT
BLAH BLAH
BUT WHY DID HE HAVE TO FINALLY SETTLE DOWN WITH THIS PRETTY BOY?
I'VE NEVER MET ANY OF THEM, BUT IT SEEMED LIKE ALL OF THEM WERE PRETTY INVOLVED RELATIONSHIPS
HE'S FUSSY, MEAN, AND A LIAR.
I HATED HIM IN THE BEGINNING, BUT NOW I'M STARTING TO SEE SOME GOOD POINTS IN HIM...
I'LL BE BACK AROUND 11, BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT DINNER FOR ME
I'LL BE HOME LATE TONIGHT
YES.
HELLO HARASHIMA NOW SPEAKING
HARA-SHIMA-SAN, THERE'S A PHONE CALL FOR YOU

OK, BYE
...WAS THAT A SMILE JUST THEN?
WHISPER
MAYBE YOU'RE SEEING THINGS
SO YOU WANT COPIES OF THESE?
IT'LL JUST BE NAOTO AND ME FOR DINNER.
I PROBABLY DON'T HAVE TO BUY GROCERIES WE CAN JUST HAVE LEFTOVERS
OH...
...IS THERE SOMETHING YOU NEED HERE?
...DO YOU LIVE HERE? THEN YOU ARE HARASHIMA-SAN?
I AM
EH? YOU'RE HARASHIMA-SAN?
YES...

MY NAME IS IJUUIN. I'M CURRENTLY DATING YOUR MOTHER.
UM, YES?
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN RUDE OF ME, BUT I LOOKED UP YOUR ADDRESS IN THE TELEPHONE BOOK
ACTUALLY, THIS MORNING... WE HAD A LITTLE FIGHT.
WHEN HE SAYS "YOUR MOTHER", HE MEANS YUMIKO-SAN PROBABLY.
UH... I'D LIKE TO TRY TALKING WITH YUMIKO-SAN ONE MORE TIME...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
SO THAT MEANS HE THINKS THAT I'M NAOTO
WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED AT YOUR HOUSE, THE FIRST NIGHT WE DINED OUT. WE WERE OUT RATHER LATE, SO THE NEXT DAY WE OVERSLEPT...
STEAM STEAM
OVER AND OVER
WE DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO MAKE ANYTHING FOR BREAKFAST, SO WE BOUGHT BOXED LUNCHES FROM THE CONVENIENCE STORE.
IT WAS ALL FINE AND WELL THEN, BUT...
AT NIGHT, SHE WORKED UNTIL LATE SO WE HAD BOXED LUNCHES AGAIN...
THAT NIGHT AND THE NEXT... BOXED LUNCHES AGAIN...

...BUT SHE DIDN'T THINK THE SAME WAY. DAY IN AND DAY OUT, ALL WE HAD WERE BOXED LUNCHES!
SO NATURALLY, I HAD TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
...YES, DON'T YOU THINK!?
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN TIRING
EXCUSE ME, BUT...
IF YOU DON'T LEAVE THEN I WILL!
AH HOW BOTHER-SOME!
AND THEN IT BECAME A FIGHT.
WHAT IF YOU WERE TO COOK?
I'M GOING TO MY EX-HUSBAND'S PLACE!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO COMPLAIN WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE!?
EXCUSE ME?
THE NUMBER OF HOUSEWIVES THAT ARE BUYING TAKE-OUT LUNCHES AND WHITE RICE FROM CONVENIENCE STORES ARE INCREASING
WOMEN ARE GETTING SICK OF PREPARING MEALS EVERY SINGLE DAY.
NOT ONLY YOUNG WOMEN, BUT WOMEN IN THEIR 40S AND 50S TOO
WILL HE JUST HURRY UP AND GO HOME?
AND ISN'T IT EXPECTED FOR A WOMAN TO COOK FOR A MAN?
I'M HOME.
BUT I CAN'T COOK AT ALL.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S BETTER TO BE ABLE TO COOK-?
ALTHOUGH THERE ARE ALSO WOMEN WHO AREN'T GOOD AT COOKING, THERE ARE ALSO MANY MEN WHO CAN COOK.

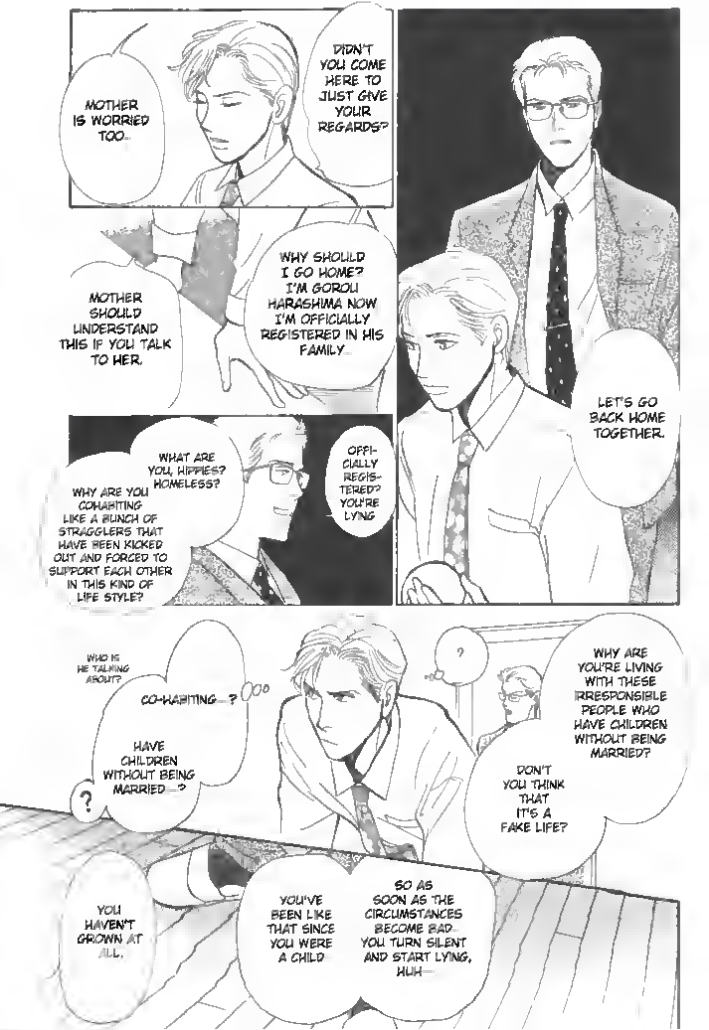
HE... HE'S MY YOUNGER BROTHER, NAOTO...
WHO'S GORO?
EH?
GORO-CHAN, I'M STARVING
OH, I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T KNOW WE HAD A GUEST.
HUH?
EXCUSE US...
I WAS CERTAIN THAT THERE WAS ONLY ONE SON AND HIS NAME IS NAOTO...
SHINOBU IJUUIN!?
THUD
DING DONG
IF I DON'T WATCH OUT FOR YUMIKO-SAN NOW...
DID YOU TALK TO HIM...?
IS HE MAMA'S TYPE?
THAT NAME SO DOESN'T FIT HIM.
THAT'S HIM?
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE'S TALKED TO HIM ABOUT OUR SITUATION.
DING DONG
YU... YUMIKO-SAN!!
NOTE: SHINOBU MEANS "PERSEVERANCE"... DUNNO... HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'S OVERCOME ANYTHING? ;X

EXCUSE ME FOR VISITING AT NIGHT
IS THIS HARASHIMA-SAN?
AH... THIS IS HARASHIMA.
NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M GOROU'S OLDER BROTHER.
UM, YES? GOROU'S?
"SWEAT"
THOSE THREE ARE ALL BROTHERS!?
THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF MY YOUNGER BROTHER. I WANTED TO VISIT SOONER AND OFFER MY GREETINGS.
DID SHE LIE ABOUT HER AGE...?
EXCUSE ME... HARASHIMA-SAN?

"OPEN"
AAAAH! WHAT'S THIS!?
GOROU... YOU LOOK WELL.
BROTHER.
YUMIKO..
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
MAMA!
A-AH... IT'S YOU.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY CAME HERE!
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU! PLEASE...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? AND DON'T CALL ME BY JUST MY FIRST NAME SO CASUALLY!
OH? AND WHO MAY YOU BE?
SO HANDSOME
HELLO THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME CONFUSION HERE

NOTE: I HAVE NO CLUE WHAT THESE PLAYS ON THE NAMES ARE. I'M JUST GUESSING THAT 三谷 HAJIME (ONE SHRIMP) REMINDS THEM OF A PIECE OF TEMPURA SHRIMP ON A BOWL OF RICE (CONFUSED WEIRDOS < <
CARD HAJIME 三谷
THAT NAME SOUNDS LIKE THE SHRIMP THAT YOU GET WITH DONBURI
I'M SORRY FOR NOT COMING TO GREET YOU PROPERLY EARLIER.
YOU'RE GOROU-CHAN'S OLDER BROTHER!?
HAHA...
OH, YOU WORK AT A VERY DISTINGUISHED COMPANY, I SEE.
I LIKE TO MEET THEIR PARENTS SOMETIME.
BUT EVEN HIS SMILE DOESN'T GIVE ANYTHING AWAY. A PERFECT ELITIST
BUT DURING A RECESSION, COMPANIES ARE ALL THE SAME
YOU LOOK VERY FIT. DO YOU PLAY ANY SPORTS?
HE LOOKS LIKE A YOUNG MAN FROM A PAINTING
JUST SOME BOXING AND SWIMMING
NOTE: HAJIME = 1 AND GOROU = 5TH SON
AND YOU MUST HAVE GOTTEN A LOT OF LOVE LETTERS IN YOUR SHOE LOCKER. OH THOSE WERE GREAT MEMORIES. HAHA...
YOU ARE VERY TALL.
NOT REALLY. I'M ONLY 180 CM TALL.
YES, IT DOES. BUT THE 3 IN THE MIDDLE ARE ALL SISTERS.
SINCE YOU TWO ARE NAMED HAJIME AND GOROU, DOES THAT MEAN THERE ARE 5 SIBLINGS IN YOUR FAMILY?
WELL... YES. HOW DID YOU GUESS?
WELL YOU WERE A STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT OR A CAPTAIN OF A TEAM OF SOME SORT
DO YOU THINK I HAD A CHILD WHEN I WAS 10 YEARS OLD?
I'M 33.
EXCUSE ME?
HAJIME-SAN, MAY I ASK HOW OLD YOU ARE?
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE MOTHER AND SON, YOU SURE SPEAK QUITE RESERVEDLY TO EACH OTHER...
WAIT NOT REALLY LISTENING TO THE ACTUAL CONVERSATION.

WHEN HE CALLED YOU "MAMA"
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT UP UNTIL NOW I WAS PREJUDICED AGAINST THIS TYPE OF MAN...
OH, I'M SO SORRY OHOHOHO.
MAMA, BUT IT SEEMS THAT THE OTHERS HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR A LONG TIME
WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?
DOES THAT MEAN YOU ARE HARASHIMA'S EX-WIFE?
IT'S NOT LIKE PEOPLE CAN FORCE THEMSELVES TO DO THINGS THEY'RE NOT USED TO
AHAHAHA
"FLOP"
SO I DECIDED TO TRY IT OUT, AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW... I WAS WRONG.
UP UNTIL NOW, I HATED THEM SO I NEVER HAD A CHANCE WITH THEM.
BUT... NAOTO IS HARASHIMA'S SON
WHAT A THING TO SAY! I'M PRETTY MUCH A COMPLETE STRANGER NOW
GOROU
I HATE IDIOTS
YUMIKO
PLEASE! I BEG YOU, LET'S START OVER AGAIN
...I SEE
HOW IRRITATING! GET OUT OF HERE, WILL YOU?


DIDN'T YOU COME HERE TO JUST GIVE YOUR REGARDS?
MOTHER IS WORRIED TOO...
WHY SHOULD I GO HOME? I'M GOROU HARASHIMA NOW I'M OFFICIALLY REGISTERED IN HIS FAMILY...
MOTHER SHOULD UNDERSTAND THIS IF YOU TALK TO HER.
LET'S GO BACK HOME TOGETHER.
OFFICIALLY REGISTERED? YOU'RE LYING
WHAT ARE YOU, HIPPIES? HOMELESS?
WHY ARE YOU COHABITING LIKE A BUNCH OF STRAGGLERS THAT HAVE BEEN KICKED OUT AND FORCED TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER IN THIS KIND OF LIFE STYLE?
WHO IS HE TALKING ABOUT?
CO-HABITING...?
HAVE CHILDREN WITHOUT BEING MARRIED...?
?
?
WHY ARE YOU'RE LIVING WITH THESE IRRESPONSIBLE PEOPLE WHO HAVE CHILDREN WITHOUT BEING MARRIED?
DON'T YOU THINK THAT IT'S A FAKE LIFE?
YOU HAVEN'T GROWN AT ALL.
YOU'VE BEEN LIKE THAT SINCE YOU WERE A CHILD
SO AS SOON AS THE CIRCUMSTANCES BECOME BAD YOU TURN SILENT AND START LYING, HUH—

WITH AN ELITIST ELDER BROTHER LIKE HIM JUST SPOUTING HIS IRREFUTABLE ARGUMENTS, HE CAN'T DO MUCH BUT KEEP SILENT DURING THAT...
WHAT WAS THAT? WHAT WAS HE TALKING ABOUT? SEEMS LIKE HE MISUNDERSTOOD SOMETHING
?
SOMEWAY OR ANOTHER, I FEEL LIKE I KNOW WHAT GOROU'S CHILDHOOD WAS LIKE
SON
ACKNOWLEDGED
HAS A SMALL AND GOOD MAN-
NSTIGATOR
UNMARRIED BUT LIV NG TOGETHER
CANNOT SUPPORT HIMSELF SO PRETEND NE TO BE ARANDON
FEMALE LOVER
A TOTALLY MESSED UP CHARACTER MAP OF THE FOUR'S ODED LIFESTYLE...
I KNEW IT...
I HEARD FROM MY YOUNGER BROTHER THAT HE HAS ENTERED YOUR FAMILY REGISTRY?
EXCUSE ME? IT COULD NOT BE
IT'S AS YOU HAVE SEEN. IT IS NOT POS- SIBLE..
HUH?
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
IT'S TOO BOTHERSOME SO I THINK I'LL GO HOME FOR NOW...
EVERYTHING'S BECOME ALL COMPLICATED
CUE WE'RE NOT BLOOD RELA TED
B-BUT— I'M JUST AN OUTSIDER. IT DOESN'T INVOLVE ME
DON'T LEAVE ALL BY YOURSELF!
HEY

THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO NOW IS...
?
?
RIGHT NOW THEY'RE STILL AT IT
...TO MAKE DINNER!
WELL, HALF OF THE PROBLEM...
I'M GOING OUT TO BUY GROCERIES SO HELP ME
...PLEASE ALLOW ME TO HELP
HE'S RIGHT
...DOES STEM FROM YOUR FAMILY, DOES IT NOT?
I APOLOGIZE MY MOTHER IS...
W-WHY DO I HAVE TO?
バサッ！
"THUD"

WHEN PEOPLE ARE HUNGRY THEY USUALLY CAN'T THINK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE.
ALRIGHT. TIME TO GET COOKING!
WHETHER OR NOT THEY HAVE ANY APPETITE IN ALL OF THIS WE DON'T KNOW...
UH
UH THIS IS
FIRST YOU CLEANLY SLICE IT INTO FOURS
IN ANY CASE, IT'S NICE TO BE TRYING SO HARD FOR SOMETHING
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S "CUTE" BECAUSE I'M TAKEN BY HIS SENIORITY TO ME
AND WHEN HE IS WORKING SO SERIOUSLY, HE'S REALLY RATHER CUTE.
I'VE ALREADY SAID THAT I'M 43! I WASN'T HIDING ANYTHING FROM YOU!
I'VE SAID IT SO MANY TIMES ALREADY
ALTHOUGH THAT INDIRECTLY MAKES HIM NAOTO'S STEP-BROTHER TOO
BUT YOU HAVE 3 CHILDREN...
SORRY FOR THE WAIT!
W-WAIT A SECOND! WHAT DID YOU SAY!? WHEN DID I GET ANOTHER BROTHER..
NAOTO?
DO YOU GET IT!? AND NAOTO AND GOROU ARE ONLY BROTHERS ON PAPER
THIS PERSON IS A COMPLETE STRANGER TO ME!
?

AH! THIS IS SOOOO CUTE!
OH WOW!
YES, YES PLEASE EXCUSE ME
DINNER IS SERVED!
IT'S
OH THIS? OH WHOOPS
DELI-CIOUS!
IT TASTES LIKE HOME COOKING~!
I WAS WRONG. WHAT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR...
YUMIKO...
QUITE TRUE, IJUUIN-SAN JUST LIKE HOME
MAMA, ARE YOU DRUNK?
BUT ACCORDING TO THE FAMILY REGISTRY YOU'RE ADOPTED. CORRECT? SO UNDER JAPANESE LAW, YOU'RE PERMITTED TO MARRY ONE MORE TIME! RIGHT? RIGHT?
..BUT I'M ALREADY MARRIED.
GORO-CHAN, WON'T YOU MARRY ME?
...WASN'T A HUSBAND, BUT A WIFE!
OH, THAT IS... RIGHT.
BUT FROM A MORAL STANDPOINT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
IS THERE ANYONE ELSE WHO WANTS A SECOND HELPING OF RICE?

EVER SINCE HE WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HE WOULD COOK EVERY DAY FOR 6 PEOPLE
PERHAPS HE WANTED TO BE OF SOME USE TO OUR FAMILY.
YOU KNOW, YOUR COOKING IS AS GOOD AS USUAL.
G.A.
YOUR SON IS GAY?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? YOU'RE GAY SO HOW CAN YOU BE PREACHING ABOUT MORALITY?
OUR FATHER PASSED AWAY WHEN WE WERE YOUNG. SINCE OUR MOTHER HAD TO WORK, WE CHILDREN WOULD TAKE TURNS TO DO THE COOKING.
AS THE OLDER CHILDREN STARTED WORKING, IT WAS LEFT TO THE YOUNGEST, GOROU, TO DO THE COOKING BY HIMSELF.
EVEN NOW, HE'S DOING THE SAME THING.
...HE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL FROM WHEN HE WAS A CHILD.
BUT HE HATED EVERYONE. HE JUST FOUND A CRAMPED-LIKE SPACE TO RETREAT TO FOR HIS OWN.
IF YOU'RE A MAN, WHY DON'T YOU TRY LEAVING FOR A BIGGER PLACE FOR ONCE?
IT MAY BE VERY COMFORTABLE FOR YOU, BUT HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING STAY CRAMPED UP LIKE THIS?
BUT IT'S JUST THE TRUTH.
...DID I OFFEND YOU, GOROU?

IS IT THE FAMILY'S FAULT THAT YOU'VE BECOME LIKE THIS?
THERE WAS NO FATHER FOR YOU
SO YOU WENT SEARCHING FOR AN OLDER MAN WHO'D BE LIKE A FATHER FIGURE FOR YOU?
THAT'S NOT IT!
I MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO UNDERSTAND YOU IN THE PAST...
...BUT YOUR FAMILY IS THE ONLY ONE THAT WILL ACCEPT YOU UNCONDITIONALLY NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS
THIS IS MY HOME HARASHIMA-SAN DOESN'T FEEL ASHAMED OF ME AT ALL
STOP HUMILIATING YOURSELF LIKE THAT! DON'T GIVE UP EVERYTHING YOU HAVE!
..GOROU!
AND EVEN IF THIS TURNS OUT NOT TO WORK LATER WHAT IS WRONG WITH THAT?
I'M QUITE HAPPY WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE NOW...
IF THE SOURCE OF HOMOSEXUALITY IS BECAUSE THE FAMILY HAD NO FATHER, THEN I WOULD HAVE TURNED OUT GAY TOO.
THAT'S A GOOD POINT...
THAT FACT THAT I LIKE MEN IS SOMETHING THAT IS IN MY NATURE. IT'S NOT THE FAMILY'S FAULT.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DOESN'T UNDERSTAND, GOROU...!
TO ME, YOU HAVE ALWAYS DENIED MY WORTH AS A PERSON.
NOW WAIT A SECOND HERE
HEY...!
"IRRITATED"
YOU MUST HAVE MANY OTHER BETTER THINGS THAT YOU CAN DO
"SLAP"
THERE'S NO LIMIT TO THESE SELF-RIGHTEOUS JERKS IT SEEMS
ONE DAY YOUR WIFE IS GOING TO LEAVE YOU FOR REASONS ONLY UNKNOWN TO YOU, AND YOU'RE GOING TO GO INTO A STATE OF PANIC.
STOP PUSHING YOUR OWN VALUES ON OTHER PEOPLE
THE ELITE ARE REALLY AS DULL AS I THOUGHT
—DID YOUR WIFE GO BACK TO HER FAMILY AGAIN?
OH NO. IS IT TRUE?
EVEN IF YOU WANT TO PROGRESS FORWARD, YOU CAN'T EVEN BOW YOUR HEAD AT SOMEONE'S FEET...
YOU'RE GONNA WONDER, "WHAT DID I EVER DO WRONG?", AS YOUR WORLD TURNS UPSIDE DOWN.
—YOU COULDN'T FACE HER, SO YOU CAME HERE TO RELEASE YOUR ANGER?
Turned to stone
OH— DID I HIT THE NAIL RIGHT ON THE HEAD?

I DON'T WANNA HEAR THAT FROM YOU
JUST BECAUSE YOU'VE LOST YOUR SELF-CONFIDENCE IT DOESN'T GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO COMPLAIN ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES.
WHEN YOU PASS 40 YOU'RE GOING TO SUFFER LIKE ME.
THE REASON WHY I COOKED FOR EVERYONE IS NOT BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WAS THE ONLY THING I COULD DO.
I DID IT BECAUSE I LIKED IT
WHY DO I HAVE TO DO SUCH A...!?
IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN ARGUE OVER.
YOU'RE STILL YOUNG SO WHY DON'T YOU BOW DOWN AND APOLOGIZE?
YOU'RE CLEARLY VOICING YOUR THOUGHTS RIGHT TO ME
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE DONE THAT...
...YOU'VE REALLY SURPRISED ME
SO WHY DO YOU THINK THAT I'M NOT HAPPY?
IT'S THE CONFIDENCE OF A MAN WITH HOME TO TAKE CARE OF.
...I'M ALREADY AN INDEPENDENT ADULT.
TROJAN

PLEASE...
...TAKE CARE OF MY BROTHER, HARASHIMA-SAN.
WELL, PLEASE ALLOW ME TO BE EXCUSED FOR TODAY
AGAIN, I EXTEND MY REGARDS TO YOU
GOOD LUCK! IN THE MEANTIME, TRY BOWING DOWN TO OTHERS!
...HUMANS BY NATURE HAVE THINGS THAT THEY CAN AND CANNOT DO!
SHEESH
HOW MANY YEARS HAVE I KEPT SAYING THAT?
...WHO WAS HE TALKING TO JUST NOW?
UM...
...BUT YOU KNOW, I'M SURE GOROU-CHAN MUST HAVE A COMPLEX OF SOME SORT WITH AN OLDER BROTHER LIKE THAT WHO SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO DO EVERYTHING
YOU THINK SO? BUT I THINK GOROU HAS BETTER LOOKS.
I'VE DECIDED TO GO TO COOKING SCHOOL!
YOU'VE TOTALLY MIS-UNDERSTOOD ME. BUT I GUESS THAT'S SOME PROGRESS
...IT DOESN'T MATTER. I DON'T FEEL LIKE ARGUING ANYMORE
...DO YOU FEEL LIKE THERE WAS JUST A STUPID, SIMPLE MIS-UNDERSTANDING...?
WILL YOU BE GOING TO THE GYM?
I AM ALSO GOING TO ALTER MY THINKING AND CHANGE THE WAY I LIVE!

"THUD"
HERE, A REWARD
WHAT ARE YOU SITTING THERE FOR? THE SINK IS FILLED WITH DISHES THAT NEED TO BE WASHED, YOU KNOW.
...NAOTO.
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM HERE.
WE'VE RUN OUT OF TRASH BAGS, SO I'M GOING OUT TO BUY SOME.
OOOOH, WHAT A CUTE FASHION RING! BUT IT'S A BIT TOO SMALL FOR YOUR FINGERS
ISN'T THAT ABOUT A SIZE 9?
...WHY ARE YOU HERE? DID YOU COME TO PICK ME UP?
... WELCOME HOME.

...REMEMBER THAT PAIR OF RINGS I HAD YOU DESIGN?
THE MORE YOU TRIED TO ADJUST THE DESIGN, THE MORE MASCULINE IT GOT
IT REALLY TOOK ME A LONG TIME TO REALIZE THAT YOU DESIGNED IT WITH ME IN MIND.
WHEN YOU FIND SOMEONE THAT YOU LIKE, YOU JUST QUIETLY MAKE SOMETHING FOR THEM...
WHAT'S TAKING EBIGORO SO LONG...?
DO YOU THINK...
...WE'RE A NUISANCE TO THEM!?
REALIZATION
LET'S GO HOME MAMA
...LEAVE ME ALONE.
I JUST LIKE WHAT I LIKE...
END

OTONA NO MONDAI

ADULT'S PROBLEMS

BY

IMA ICHIKO

SCANNED BY EATHLINN
TRANSLATED BY ARTEMIS
EDITED BY EATHLINN
PRE-EDITED BY PYRY

SPECIAL THANKS TO:
YOCCHAN, PYRY, SHARRY

CHAPTER 3 OF 5
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大人の問題Ⅲ

IT'S BEEN 15 YEARS SINCE MAMA DIVORCED PAPA.
MORNING, NAO-CHAN!
WAH~ I'M GONNA BE LATE! WHAT TIME IS IT?
IT'S 7:45...
DO I LOOK OK?
RIGHT NOW SHE'S CONCENTRATING ON FINDING A NEW LOVER.
I'M IN A REAL HURRY, AND NOW YOU HAD TO SAY THAT!
SORRY! IT JUST SLIPPED OUT. BUT YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL!
LATELY SHE'S BEEN THINKING ABOUT GETTING REMARRIED.
YEAH, YEAH, BEAUTIFUL... BUT PERHAPS YOU PUT ON TOO MUCH MAKEUP?
WE'RE GONNA BE LATE, MAMA!
OH, DID I TELL YOU THAT I'LL BE AWAY ON A BUSINESS TRIP STARTING TODAY?
...NO, YOU DIDN'T!
SO I'LL BE ON MY OWN FROM TODAY?
I'LL BE IN OSAKA ONLY UNTIL SUNDAY! THAT'S ALL THERE IS, SO TAKE CARE!

GOOD MORNING, HARASHIMA-KUN.
KANDA-SAN! MORNING!
GEEZ... MY MOM JUST TOLD ME THAT SHE'S LEAVING FOR A BUSINESS TRIP TODAY.
SHE DIDN'T EVEN PREPARE ANYTHING FOR ME, SO NOW I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'LL DO FOR DINNER TONIGHT.
POOR YOU...
YOU SHOULD COME OVER TO MY HOUSE FOR DINNER THEN. PEOPLE TELL ME THAT I'M PRETTY GOOD AT COOKING.
WOW! REALLY?
YEAH, COME OVER! YOU CAN STAY UNTIL YOUR MOTHER GETS BACK, IF YOU LIKE.
...YEAH, RIGHT. THERE'S NO WAY THE CONVERSATION WOULD STEER IN THAT NICE OF A DIRECTION FOR ME...
HEH.
WHAT'S WRONG? YOUR FACE IS ALL RED.

WE'RE TOUCHING!
WAH...!
SHAKE
AH... SO SOFT!
AND SMALL!
WOAH!
SHAKE
AH, SORRY ...
IT'S NOTHING... ARE YOU OK?
THIS IS REALLY GOING NO-WHERE..
I MUST REALLY BE OBLIVIOUS.
WE'RE EVEN DATING NOW.
WE GO SEE MOVIES AND HAVE DINNER TOGETHER
I EVEN GAVE HER A PRESENT...
YOU'RE ACTUALLY WEARING IT.
UM...
OH, THIS? YEAH, I REALLY LIKE IT.

EXCUSE ME, I'M FROM KITAYAMA JEWELRY. IS THE DEPARTMENT CHIEF IN?
IT'S THE RING THAT YOUR BROTHER MADE FOR ME, AFTER ALL.
I'M THE DESIGNER, HARASHIMA.
ALRIGHT, THIS WAY PLEASE.
LET'S SEE...
YOU HAD AN APPOINTMENT TO MEET WITH HIM AT 3, RIGHT?
Jewelry Designer
Gorou Harashima
HE MARRIED AND WAS ADOPTED INTO THE BRIDE'S FAMILY, RIGHT?
ALMOST LIKE A GAY MARRIAGE OR SOMETHING.
anana
AS ALWAYS,
WHENEVER I SEE HIM, I THINK HE'S BEEN WIPED CLEAN WITH ALCOHOL. HE'S SO BEAUTIFUL
OH YES... IT USED TO BE SOME WEIRD NAME LIKE... IKA OR KANI OR SOMETHING...
...SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
DIDN'T HE CHANGE HIS NAME?
HIS NAME IS HARA-SHIMA
YES HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A DESIGNER, BUT HE DOESN'T FIT THE LOOK OF A SALARYMAN EITHER.

NOTE: IKA IS SQUID AND KANI IS CRAB

BONK
GOT-
...CHA.
WAAH
Harashima
GOROU HARASHIMA. FORMERLY GOROU EBI.
NAOTO...
THUD
...OH, SO YOUR MOTHER LEFT ON A BUSINESS TRIP? THAT IS RATHER INCONVE-NIENT
MMMMM ~
THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN WANTING!
WOW...!!

AH, SOOOOO GOOD! THIS IS THE BEST! I'M IN HEAVEN!
WELL EVEN SO, MAMA IS ALWAYS WORKING SO USUALLY I DON'T EAT HOME COOKED MEALS.
IT'S TOO MUCH TROUBLE TO COOK FOR JUST ONE PERSON.
GOROU IS PAPA'S CURRENT "WIFE".
... DON'T CALL ME BY THAT NAME!
...I'LL DO ANYTHING! PLEASE LET ME STAY HERE UNTIL FRIDAY!
...EBI-GORO-SAMA!!
WELL, NAOTO, WHY DON'T YOU...
JERK
WHAT PERFECT TIMING!
AND DON'T DO IT REPEATEDLY!
PLEASE, EBIGORO-SAMA!
WHAT ABOUT DINNER ...?
WELL, IT'S ALSO A REUNION OF SORTS. AND IF I STAY THERE OVERNIGHT, IT'LL BE EASIER ON MY BODY
I HAVE A TRAINING SEMINAR OVER AT A CONVENTION IN TACHIKAWA THAT I'LL BE LEAVING FOR TONIGHT
OH, I'M FINE. I ONLY STOPPED BY TO GET SOME CLOTHING.
YOU WEREN'T GOING TO COMMUTE THERE?
YOU CAN USE MY ROOM.

BUT TACHIKAWA ISN'T THAT FAR TO COMMUTE...
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. IT'S FOR WORK.
GOROU...
CAN'T YOU STAY FOR A BIT LONGER ....?
SEE YA, NAOTO TAKE CARE OF THE HOUSE FOR ME GET ALONG TOGETHER, OK?
HUH?
WE CAN'T... NAOTO IS WATCHING.
BYE. I'LL BE BACK SOON.
SHUT
HUH? HUH?
WHAT WAS THAT?
SO IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US AGAIN...

TACKLE
AREN'T YOU SCARED BEING ALONE WITH SUCH A YOUNG MAN!?
AH.
AREN'T YOU UNCOMFORTABLE BEING ALONE WITH A GAY MAN? WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME?
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'M SO SORRY! IT WAS A JOKE, BROTHER DEAREST!
SO THEY FIGHT TOO...
IN THE END, A GAY COUPLE IS STILL TWO GUYS.
THEY HAVE THEIR DIFFERENCES TOO.
I WONDER IF THEY CAN CONTINUE TO STAY ON GOOD TERMS...

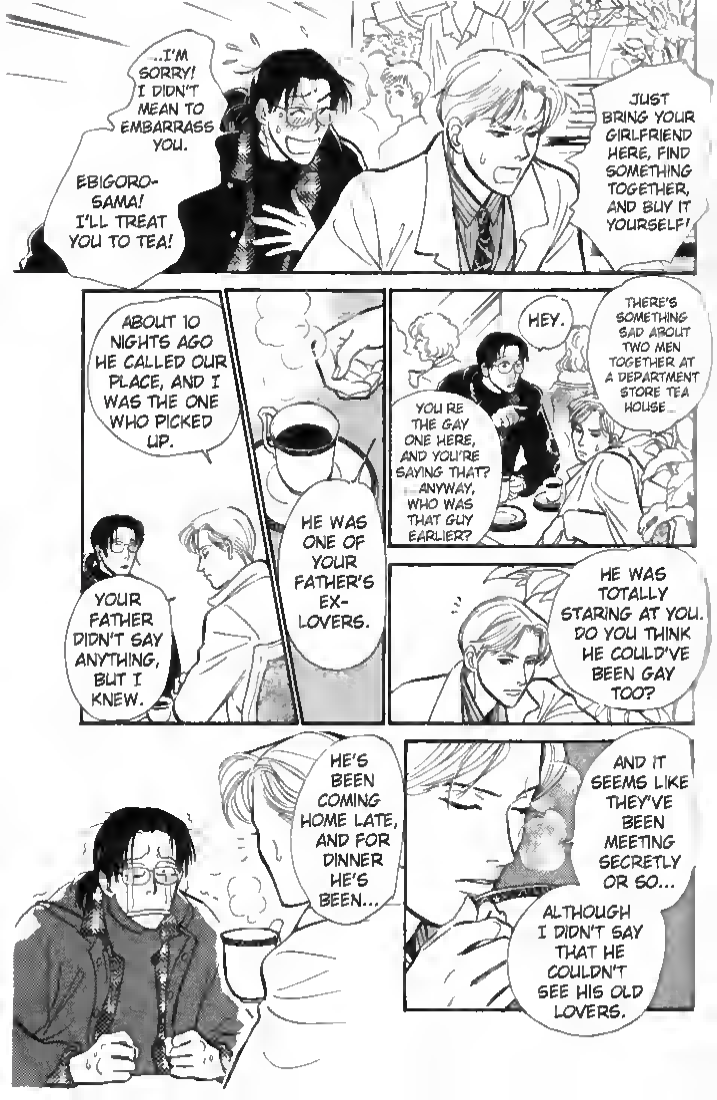
TADAH
MORNING... BREAKFAST IS READY.
MOR-NING..
...MAKE SURE YOU DON'T WASTE ANY OF IT.
IS IT AN APOLOGY FOR LAST NIGHT? IT'S ALMOST REFRESHINGLY OPEN OF HIM.
WOW...
THE FOOD IS THIS NICE EVEN IN THE MORNINGS ...
HEY, DID YOU SLEEP OVER SOMEWHERE? I TRIED TO CALL YOU LAST NIGHT.
HUH? YOU TRIED TO CALL ME?
HARA-SHIMA-KUN, GOOD MORNING!
AH...
CRAP, I'M STARTING TO FEEL THE HEART-BURN...
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE THE APPETITE OF A 20-YEAR-OLD MAN!
HEH
chomp
chomp
THANKS FOR THE FOOD

YEAH SO WHAT DID YOU CALL FOR? DID YOU NEED SOMETHING?
OH.
I'M STAYING OVER AT PA-... ERR, MY DAD'S HOUSE WHILE MY MOM'S ON A BUSINESS TRIP...
IT'S TOO TROUBLESOME TO COOK FOR MYSELF...
SO THAT'S IT...
YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING.
THEN...
SILENT
I SOMEHOW GET THE FEELING THAT I MISSED SOMETHING IMPORTANT HERE...
KA... KANDA-SAN?
HMPH
NOTHING...
AND THEN WHAT?
WHAT?!
AND THEN...
HUH?
CHIEF, YOUR BROTHER IS HERE TO SEE YOU
SO YOU WORK AT A PLACE LIKE THIS.
WOW
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
AND WHAT LITTLE BROTHER IS HE?
THEY DON'T LOOK ALIKE AT ALL.
THE CHIEF HAS A LITTLE BROTHER?
VERY INTERESTED
.....

...SO I'LL SAY IT CLEARLY. YOU'RE BOTHERING ME.
I DON'T WANT TO BE WATCHED JUST TO SATISFY YOUR CURIOSITY.
IT'S ALREADY KNOWN HERE THAT I'M GAY.
THANK YOU FOR WAITING.
I'M THE DESIGNER, HARA-SHIMA.
WHAT KIND OF ITEM ARE YOU INTERESTED IN TODAY?
I'D LIKE A RING.
CHIEF, YOU HAVE ANOTHER CUSTOMER.
OH... I THOUGHT IT'D BE NICE TO GO HOME TOGETHER AT WHAT TIME DO YOU FINISH?
FINE. IF YOU WANT TO STAY, THEN DON'T SAY A WORD WHILE YOU'RE HERE.
WHAT TO SAY
OH EXCUSE ME. I JUST NOTICED THAT YOU APPEAR TO BE MARRIED...
YOU ARE RATHER YOUNG. HOW OLD ARE YOU?
WELL, SAMPLES OF THE BASIC DESIGNS CAN BE SEEN HERE.

OH,
YOU REMEMBER ME?
ARE YOU THE ONE WHO CALLED ABOUT 10 DAYS AGO?
YOU ARE WEARING A WEDDING BAND, CORRECT? I THOUGHT THAT IT'D BE NICE TO HAVE ONE LIKE THAT.
EXCUSE ME, BUT...
AND THEY TOLD ME THAT HE WAS AT A CONVENTION FOR A TRAINING SEMINAR.
ACTUALLY, I JUST CALLED YUUJI'S.... UH... HARASHIMA-SAN'S COMPANY.
WELL, THEN IT MAKES MATTERS RATHER QUICK.
I UN-DERS-TAND ...
IT'S RATHER URGENT BUSINESS. COULD YOU TELL ME WHAT IT IS?
I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU FROM HIM, SO I THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULD KNOW THE CONVENTION HALL'S TELEPHONE NUMBER.

WELL, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.
COMING TO SEE ME JUST FOR THAT, SOME NERVE
WE'RE GOING HOME!
UM... GOROU-CHAN?
I'M LEAVING EARLY.
WELL... UM, I WAS WONDERING WHAT TO GET MY GIRLFRIEND FOR CHRISTMAS
KIMI
WHY DON'T YOU GET YOUR MOTHER TO HELP YOU INSTEAD?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "EXCUSE ME"?
JUST LOOK UP THE NUMBER IN THE PHONE BOOK YOURSELF!
YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T GET HER CLOTHING. SHE HAS HER OWN TASTES, RIGHT?
HOW ABOUT THIS?
MAMA IS A BIT EMBARRASSING ...
BUT SHE'S ALWAYS IN JUST JEANS.
SIR ...
EXCUSE ME...
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO FIND YOU A LARGER SIZE FOR THAT?
HMMM...
STAND THERE FOR A BIT.
SHE WAS ABOUT THIS HEIGHT, I THINK.


..I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO EMBARRASS YOU.
EBIGORO-SAMA! I'LL TREAT YOU TO TEA!
JUST BRING YOUR GIRLFRIEND HERE, FIND SOMETHING TOGETHER, AND BUY IT YOURSELF!
ABOUT 10 NIGHTS AGO HE CALLED OUR PLACE, AND I WAS THE ONE WHO PICKED UP.
HE WAS ONE OF YOUR FATHER'S EX-LOVERS.
YOUR FATHER DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING, BUT I KNEW.
HEY.
THERE'S SOMETHING SAD ABOUT TWO MEN TOGETHER AT A DEPARTMENT STORE TEA HOUSE...
YOU'RE THE GAY ONE HERE, AND YOU'RE SAYING THAT? ...ANYWAY, WHO WAS THAT GUY EARLIER?
HE WAS TOTALLY STARING AT YOU. DO YOU THINK HE COULD'VE BEEN GAY TOO?
HE'S BEEN COMING HOME LATE, AND FOR DINNER HE'S BEEN...
AND IT SEEMS LIKE THEY'VE BEEN MEETING SECRETLY OR SO...
ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T SAY THAT HE COULDN'T SEE HIS OLD LOVERS.

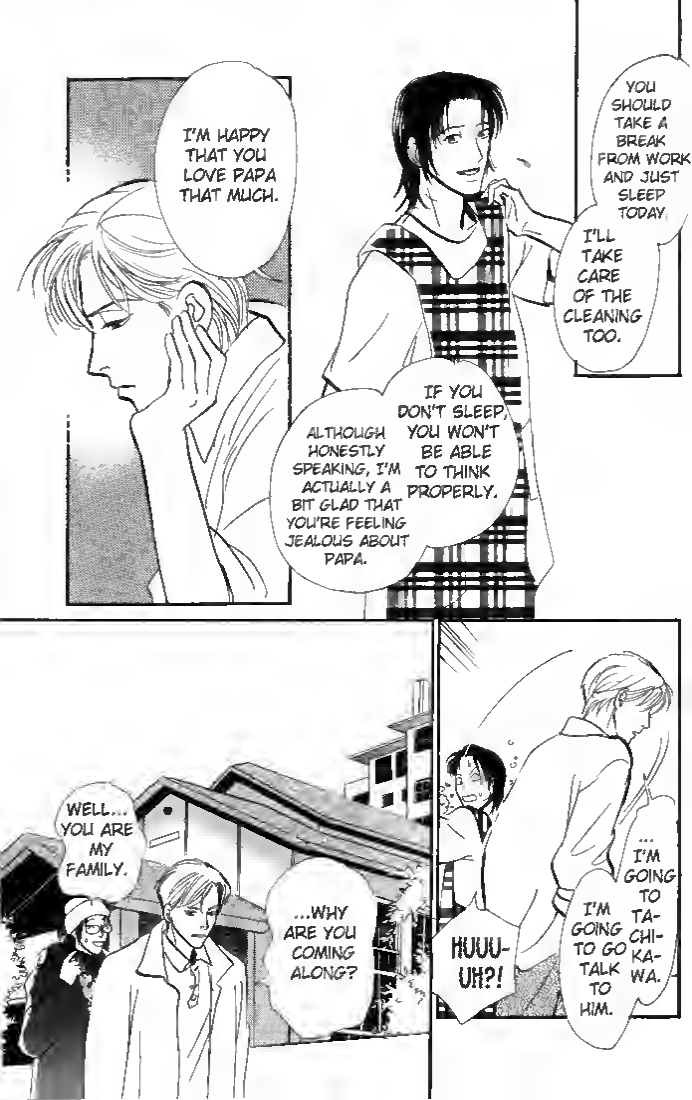
BUT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, YOU'RE THE ONLY PARTNER OF PAPA'S THAT I'VE EVER MET.
...SINCE I WAS FIVE WHEN I LEARNED THAT PAPA WAS GAY, I'VE HAD SOME UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE SITUATION.
"I THINK HE SAID HE WAS AN ACTOR. AND HIS NAME IS KEIZOU KANIE."
"WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS PAPA'S LOVER?"
WAAAAAAA-AAAAAAH!!!!!! NOOOOOOO!!
I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO COME TO THIS TEA HOUSE AGAIN.
AND WHEN I THINK THAT THAT GUY COULD HAVE BEEN YOU INSTEAD... JUST TRY IMAGINING IT... THAT STIFF GUY AND PAPA...
I'M SO GLAD THAT YOU'RE PAPA'S WIFE!!
MOST OF ALL?
AND HE'S GONE TO THE SALINA TO BATHE BEFORE COMING HOME TOO. MOST OF ALL...
AND THE LAST TIME HE ATE AT HOME WAS 10 DAYS AGO.
...DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A BIT STRANGE?

OH... SO THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY "SPOUSAL ACTIVITIES" AT NIGHT EITHER?
Blunt
I WANNA CRAWL INTO A GRAVE.
...SO THINGS HAVEN'T BEEN GOING WELL?
SINCE YOU'VE MARRIED AND ENTERED THE FAMILY REGISTRY ALREADY...
JUST MAKE UP AND GET ALONG!
...DON'T TOUCH ME SO EASILY
I DON'T KNOW PAPA THAT WELL ...
BUT I DON'T THINK HE'D BE UNFAITHFUL. TRY BELIEVING IN HIM
IT CAN'T BE!
...DO YOU THINK PAPA WILL GET BACK TOGETHER WITH THAT MAN?
I DON'T THINK SO, BUT...

BUT WILL THAT RELATION-SHIP BREAK ALSO...?
BUT THAT'S BECAUSE IT FELT UNNATURAL FOR MY GAY FATHER TO LIVE WITH MY MOTHER, A WOMAN...
MY PARENTS DID DIVORCE...
OH...
BUT WELL...
IT SHOULD BE ALRIGHT NOW THAT PAPA IS WITH GOROU, BUT...
IT IS THEIR PRIVATE MATTER.
CUPP CUPP CUPP CUPP
CLATTER CLANG
DO MARRIAGES ALWAYS EVENTUALLY BREAK..?
STEAM
MOR-NING...
BREAKFAST IS READY.
MOR-NING.
YAY! SEEMS SO GOOD...
CLATTER CLANG
CUPP CUPP CUPP CUPP
MMM...
CLATTER
SOME-THING SMELLS GOOD
CLANG

UM... DID YOU NOT SLEEP LAST NIGHT?
GOROU ...?
GO...
DID YOU WANT COFFEE OR TEA?
SO NICE ! I CAN EVEN HAVE A FULL COURSE MEAL AT BREAKFAST...!
NAOTO.
HA HA
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT GUY FROM YESTER DAY?
YUUJI-SAN ACTUALLLY PREFERS THAT TYPE OF GUY.
HE'S THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF ME, HUH?

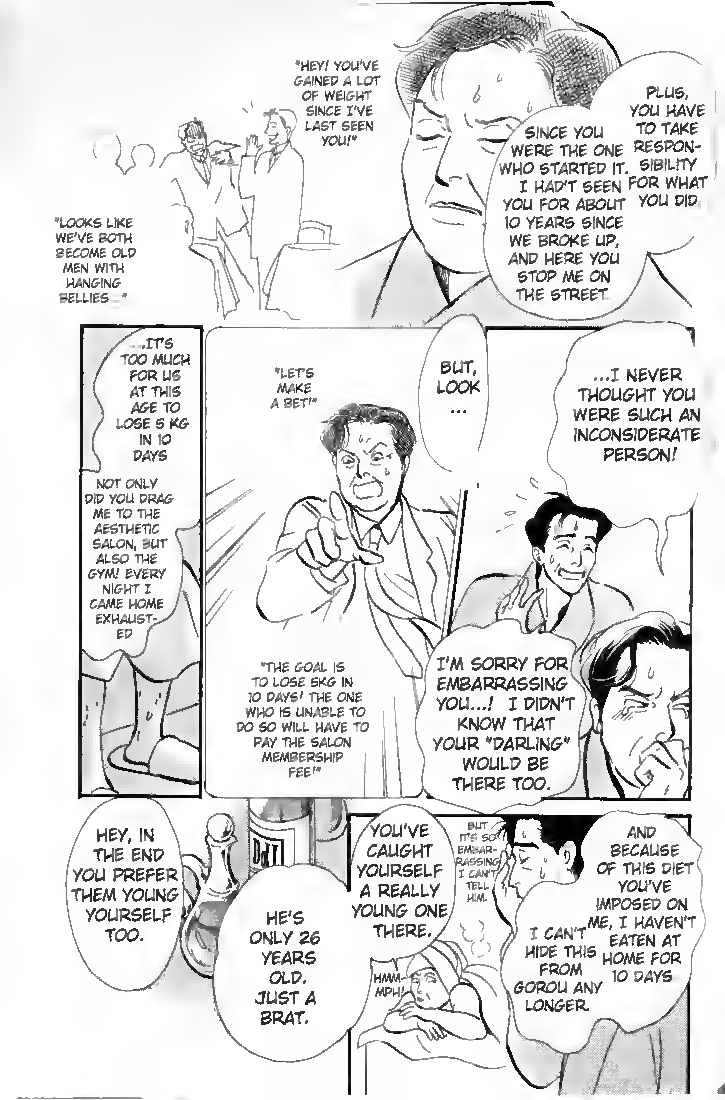
MY ONLY GOOD POINT IS COOKING.
I'M SHORT. I DON'T HAVE BROAD SHOULDERS. I'M NOT STRONG AT ALL. PLUS I HAVE A BAD PERSONALITY.
I'M SAYING THAT IF RIE MIYAZAWA SUDDENLY APPEARED IN FRONT OF YOU AND YOU WERE ATTRACTED TO HER, DO YOU THINK YOU COULD BE BLAMED FOR THAT?
SO STOP IT WITH THAT EXAMPLE!
I .. REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW GAY PEOPLE THINK..
YUUJI-SAN WAS ONLY TOUCHED BY MY ENTHUSIASM SO HE MARRIED ME.
ERR .. I DON'T THINK SO THOUGH...
NOTE JAPANESE ACTRESSES HOP TO WWW.JDORAMA.COM FOR PICS!
WHICH ONE OF YOU IS RIE MIYAZAWA?
EER... SORRY, BUT...
IT'S LIKE BEING IN LOVE WITH RIE MIYAZAWA BUT LIVING WITH RANRAN SUZUKI... UNDERSTAND?
... IT'S PAINFUL.
SORRY BUT I DO UNDERSTAND
UNDERSTAND NOW? YOU SHOULD KNOW THE FEELING OF A ONE-SIDED LOVE.
BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW YOUNG OR BEAUTIFUL THE OTHER PERSON IS...


I'M HAPPY THAT YOU LOVE PAPA THAT MUCH.
YOU SHOULD TAKE A BREAK FROM WORK AND JUST SLEEP TODAY.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE CLEANING TOO.
IF YOU DON'T SLEEP, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO THINK PROPERLY.
ALTHOUGH HONESTLY SPEAKING, I'M ACTUALLY A BIT GLAD THAT YOU'RE FEELING JEALOUS ABOUT PAPA.
...I'M GOING TO TA-CHI-KA-WA.
I'M GOING TO GO TALK TO HIM.
HUUU-UH?!
...WHY ARE YOU COMING ALONG?
WELL... YOU ARE MY FAMILY.

CHIEF HARASHIMA. A PERSON FROM YOUR FAMILY HAS COME TO VISIT YOU.
ACTUALLY, I DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH FAITH IN PAPA.
PAPA...
YUUJI...
KAI!
GLOMP
YUU-CHAAAAAAN!
SORRY, BUT I COULDN'T HELP BUT COME!
WAH...
QUIT IT! NOT AT A PLACE LIKE THIS...! ANYWAY, LET'S GO TO A ROOM, OK?

WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO SEE HIM? THAT MIGHT HAVE JUST BEEN NOTHING ..
GOROU-CHAN!? WAIT! WE'VE ALREADY COME ALL THIS WAY.
GOROU!
THIS IS SOOOO BAD..
TURN
I'M SCARED ...
STEP STEP
STEP
GOROU!?
I DON'T THINK I CAN BEAT HIM.
I'M TOO SCARED SO I DON'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO CONFRONT HIM.
. ISN'T IT STRANGE? IF YOU WANT TO LAUGH, THEN LAUGH.
HE'S GAY AND BLESSED WITH GOOD LOOKS.
YEAH, BUT WHY?
WHY DOES HE THINK THAT HE CAN'T BEAT THAT OLD MAN?
SINK
...I'M SORRY FOR BARGING IN ON YOU AT WORK.
BUT IT'S YOUR FAULT; YOU'RE THE ONE WHO RAN AWAY FROM ME.

I'M EXHAUSTED, EVERYDAY FOR THE PAST 10 DAYS YOU'VE COME TO MY COMPANY TO GET ME...
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S RIDICULOUS?
YUKIHIKO.. LET'S JUST STOP THIS NONSENSE.
HOW UNTHINK-ABLE!
"THAT KIND OF PLACE"?
AND FORCED ME TO GO TO THAT KIND OF PLACE ..
Luxury Men's Aesthetic Salon
Mister Adonis
WE MEN MUST ALSO PUT EFFORT INTO MAINTAINING OUR YOUTH AND BEAUTY.
NOGAMI-SAMA, HARASHIMA-SAMA, TODAY YOU ARE SCHEDULED FOR A FULL-BODY SEAWEED PACK AND A FACIAL ELECTROLYSIS SESSION.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT KIND OF PLACE? IS THERE SOMETHING TO BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT?
I KNEW IT!
BUT IT'S EMBAR-RASSING ALL BY MYSELF.
BUT I WANT NEITHER YOUTH NOR BEAUTY. YOU COULD HAVE JUST COME BY YOURSELF.


"HEY! YOU'VE GAINED A LOT OF WEIGHT SINCE I'VE LAST SEEN YOU!"
"LOOKS LIKE WE'VE BOTH BECOME OLD MEN WITH HANGING BELLIES_."
SINCE YOU WERE THE ONE WHO STARTED IT. I HAD'T SEEN YOU FOR ABOUT 10 YEARS SINCE WE BROKE UP, AND HERE YOU STOP ME ON THE STREET.
PLUS, YOU HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT YOU DID.
...IT'S TOO MUCH FOR US AT THIS AGE TO LOSE 5 KG IN 10 DAYS
NOT ONLY DID YOU DRAG ME TO THE AESTHETIC SALON, BUT ALSO THE GYM! EVERY NIGHT I CAME HOME EXHAUSTED
"LET'S MAKE A BET!"
"THE GOAL IS TO LOSE 5KG IN 10 DAYS! THE ONE WHO IS UNABLE TO DO SO WILL HAVE TO PAY THE SALON MEMBERSHIP FEE!"
BUT, LOOK ...
...I NEVER THOUGHT YOU WERE SUCH AN INCONSIDERATE PERSON!
I'M SORRY FOR EMBARRASSING YOU...! I DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOUR "DARLING" WOULD BE THERE TOO.
HEY, IN THE END YOU PREFER THEM YOUNG YOURSELF TOO.
HE'S ONLY 26 YEARS OLD. JUST A BRAT.
YOU'VE CAUGHT YOURSELF A REALLY YOUNG ONE THERE.
HMM-MPH!
BUT IT'S SO EMBARRASSING I CAN'T TELL HIM.
I CAN'T HIDE THIS FROM GOROU ANY LONGER.
AND BECAUSE OF THIS DIET YOU'VE IMPOSED ON ME, I HAVEN'T EATEN AT HOME FOR 10 DAYS

I DON'T WANT TO BE THROWN AWAY AND LEAD A LONESOME LIFE AS AN OLD MAN.
LEAVE ME ALONE. AS PEOPLE GET OLDER, THEIR GUT STARTS HANGING. THEY BECOME UGLY.
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO LEFT ME FOR A YOUNGER GUY 10 YEARS AGO.
NOW IS THE TENTH AND FINAL DAY!
LET'S GET IT ON!
BUT WHEN I MET GOROU, I WAS ABOUT IN THE SAME SHAPE AS I AM NOW. IT'S NOT LIKE I NEED TO LOSE ANY WEIGHT...
SOME-TIMES I WANT TO GO BACK TO THEN AND SOME-TIMES I DON'T ...
YOU LOOKED SO GREAT BACK THEN...
10 YEARS AGO, WE WERE BOTH STILL SO YOUNG, TONED, AND FIT.
NOGAMI-SAMA, YOU'VE LOST 3.5 KG.
98.5
BEEP
IT'S MY WIN...!
THAT'S TOO BAD!
THUD
HARA-SHIMA-SAMA, YOU'VE LOST 4.5 KG.
CONG-RATU-LATIONS!
BEEP

...WE'RE GOING INTO OVERTIME!
OH, TOO BAD. NEITHER OF US MADE IT.
AHAHAHAHA
AHAHAHAHA
BUT IT WAS FUN! IT WAS A GOOD EXPE-RIENCE.
ANOTHER 10 DAYS!
..GOROU.
...BUT YOU CAN'T HELP IF A PERSON'S FEELINGS CHANGE, RIGHT?
OK?
OK?
IF THAT BULGING OLD MAN WERE TO BECOME PAPA'S WIFE IN PLACE OF YOU...
PLEASE, DON'T SEPARATE FROM PAPA.
GEEZ... HE'S SO UNCUTE...
BUT I FEEL LIKE I UNDERSTAND WHY PAPA FELL IN LOVE WITH HIM...
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE ALL WORN-OUT FROM STAYING UP ALL NIGHT...
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, THEN JUST GO SEE HIM!
IF YUUJI-SAN WERE TO SAY THAT HE WANTS TO LIVE WITH HIM, I CAN'T STOP HIM.

YUKI-HIKO...!
AH, DARLING!? WHY ARE YOU HERE?
DAR-LING?
I THOUGHT SOMETHING WEIRD WAS GOING ON, SO I'VE BEEN TRAILING YOU FOR THE PAST 2 OR 3 DAYS.
WHO IS HE...?
...WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS!?
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA! THIS PERSON IS ONLY A...
I LIKE YOUR BODY PLUMP!
IN FACT, I'D LIKE YOU TO GAIN MORE WEIGHT!
...HUH?
HEY, WAIT...
DARLING, YOU...
YOU LIKE YOUR MEN CHUBBY...!?
...YEAH
I'LL JUST PRETEND I DON'T KNOW THEM
...GEEZ, WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO EARLIER?
I WAS THINKING IT WAS RIDICULOUS TO TRY TO LOSE WEIGHT.
BUT IT WAS A GOOD EXPE-RIENCE FOR ME!
HUH?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING COOKING MORE FOOD? THERE'S STILL LEFTOVERS FROM THIS MORNING.
GOROU-CHAN...
WHEN YUUJI-SAN COMES HOME TOMORROW...
AND THEN...?
WHEN PEOPLE DON'T EAT OR SLEEP, THEY CAN'T THINK PROPERLY.
HEY, GO TO SLEEP FIRST
SO TODAY I'M GOING TO EAT THIS AND THEN SLEEP PROPERLY! AND THEN...
EVEN IF HE LOVES SOMEONE ELSE, IF I CAN STAY BY HIS SIDE IT'LL ENOUGH FOR ME
TOMORROW, I'LL JUST FORGET ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED TODAY.
DING DONG
...ALL OF THIS JUST THE TWO OF US?
ALTHOUGH IT LOOKS DELICIOUS
IN THE MEANTIME, TODAY WE'RE GOING TO EAT THIS..
ANYWAY, THAT'S TOMOR-ROW.

...YUUJI-SAN!
dash
dash
I KNOW THAT. I WAS JUST WITH HIM.
...HARA-SHIMA-SAN HASN'T RETURNED YET.
?
OH, GOOD EVENING!
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE HERE BY YOURSELF, BUT IT SEEMS YOU HAVE A RATHER YOUNG MAN OVER.
I WANTED TO GET HERE BEFORE HIM. I THOUGHT I'D LET YOU KNOW THE GOOD NEWS.
FOR THE PAST 10 DAYS HE'S BEEN AT THE AESTHETIC SALON AND GYM AND SUCCESS-FULLY LOST 4.5KG!
ALTHOUGH, HE WANTED TO KEEP IT A SECRET BECAUSE IT'S EMBARRASSING...
BG: AESTHETIC SALON!?

I'M SORRY FOR BARGING IN ON HIM AT HIS WORK AND FORCING HIM TO DO THIS.
SO I KINDA WANTED TO DISTRUPT SOMEONE ELSE'S HAPPINESS A LITTLE.
I KINDA FORCED HIM TO COME WITH ME.
LATELY I'VE PUT ON A LITTLE WEIGHT.
I WAS SO CAUGHT UP IN PHYSICAL APPEARANCES THAT I LOST SIGHT OF WHAT WAS REALLY IMPORTANT.
AH, I GUESS GETTING OLDER HAS MADE ME FEEL A LITTLE INFERIOR OR SO...
WELL DARLING, LET'S GO HOME.
I WISH YOU ALL TO BE HAPPY AS WELL.
THAT PAPA PICKED YOU, GOROU...! I BEG YOU, PLEASE DON'T EVER THINK OF BECOMING BUFF AND MACHO!!
DING DONG
THAT WAS SOOOOO SCARY
...I'M SO GLAD
speechless
SHUT

I-I'M HOME.
OH, HEY..
...IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE YOU...?!
OH... I JUST THOUGHT THAT IT'D REALLY BE BEST TO COMMUTE FROM HOME.
I SUDDENLY FELT THE URGE TO COME BACK HOME...
GOROU?
grin grin

DON'T COME OVER HERE JUST BECAUSE YOUR MOTHER'S AWAY ON A BUSINESS TRIP!
GO EAT OVER AT YOUR GIRL-FRIEND'S PLACE!
BUT WEREN'T WE GOING TO EAT ALL THAT YOU COOKED TODAY?
YOU, GO HOME...!
BUT
HUH!?
BUT SHE LIVES WITH HER FAMILY...
YOU CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING THAT YOU'D BE IN OUR WAY!
THEN INVITE HER OVER TO YOUR PLACE, IDIOT!
SLAM
"THA"?
WHAT WAS THAT? I COULDN'T HEAR IT VERY WELL.
FINE THEN. GOOD NIGHT!
THA..
...OH YEAH. THERE'S THAT OPTION TOO!

I NEVER REALIZED HE WAS THAT SIMPLE.
I REALLY AM OBLI-VIOUS.
I'LL WARM IT UP FOR YOU SOON YOU MUST BE HUNGRY.
SOME-THING SMELLS NICE. WHAT ARE WE HAVING TONIGHT?
pound
knock knock
pound
HEY! DID YOU SAY "THANK YOU"!?
I CAN'T HEAR YOU IF YOU DON'T SAY IT LOUDER!
THAT'S RIGHT. IT JUST MIGHT BE NICE TO HAVE A BROTHER..
ALRIGHT! WHEN I GET HOME, I'M GONNA CALL HER!
BUT FIRST I HAVE TO CLEAN..
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, NAO-CHAN?
COME OVER HERE AND DRINK WITH ME.
I GOT IN A HUGE ARGUMENT WITH MY BOSS. SO I GOT HOME EARLIER THAN PLANNED.

◆END◆

OTONA NO MONDAI

ADULT'S PROBLEMS

BY

IMA ICHIKO

SCANNED AND
EDITED BY BATHLINN
TRANSLATED BY ARTEMIS

SPECIAL THANKS TO SHIROI_AME, YOCCHAN

CHAPTER 4 OF 5
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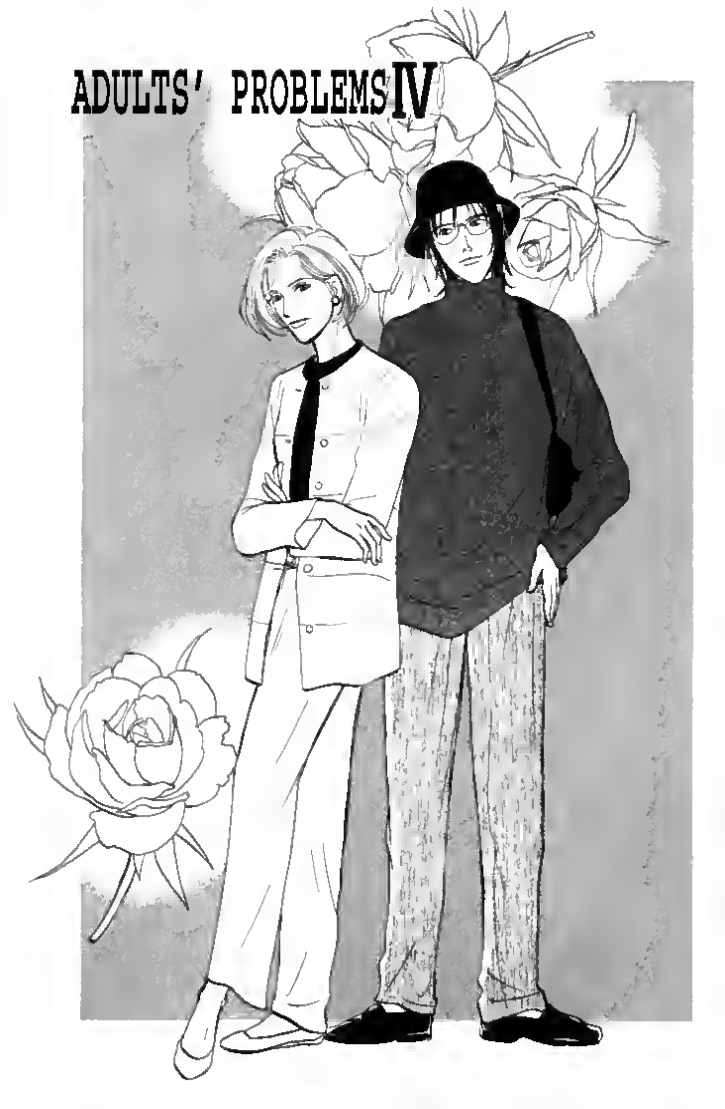
ADULTS' PROBLEMS IV

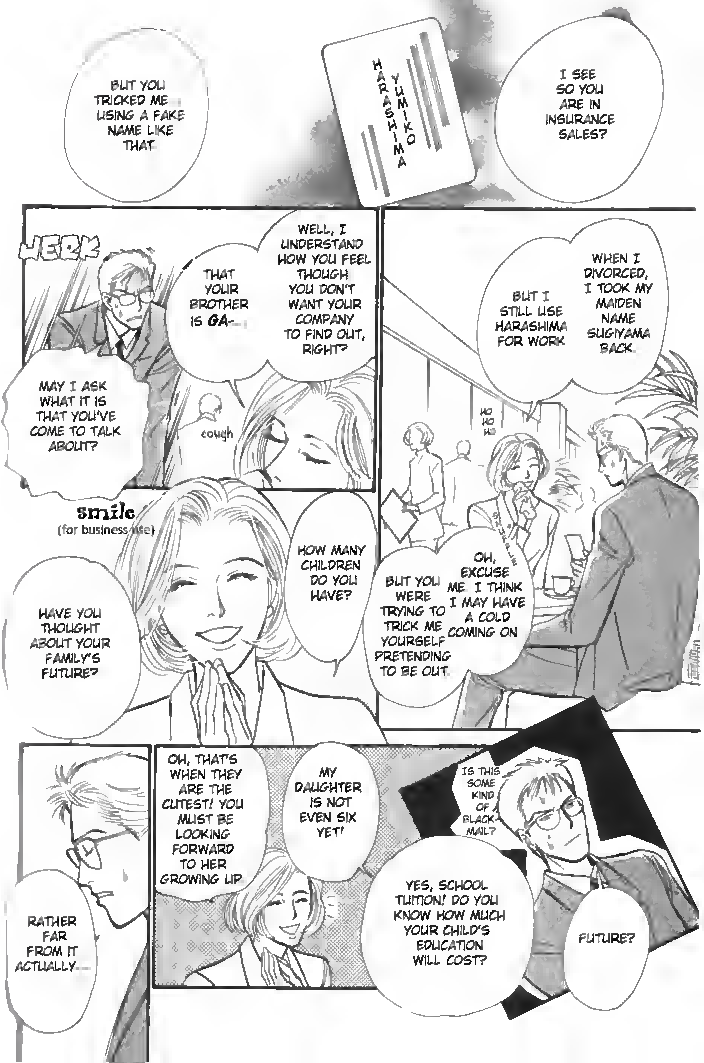


HAJIME EBI, 33-YEARS OLD AN ELITE BUSINESS-MAN
I'M HOME
DEAR, I'M WORRIED ABOUT TOMOE...
WHEN HE ARRIVES HOME, HE HAS A LOVELY WIFE AND A SOON-TO-BE 6-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER WAITING FOR HIM.
WHEN SHE COMES HOME, SHE'S ALWAYS BROODING ABOUT SOMETHING GO AND TALK TO HER
PAPA
WHAT'S WRONG, TOMOE? IS THERE SOMETHING YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND IN CLASS?
AN ONLY CHILD, TOMOE, LIKE HER MOTHER, IS A PICTURE OF ANGELIC SAGACITY
WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, THE WORLD WAS FULL OF MYSTERIES FOR ME TOO...
HMMM?
OR HAVE YOU ALREADY STARTED QUESTIONING LIFE AT YOUR AGE?
PAPA
I'M BEING BULLIED AT SCHOOL
I'M SORRY, TOMOE...

THEN I WAS ACCEPTED TO A NATIONALLY RENOWNED UNIVERSITY AND GOT HIRED BY A TOP COMPANY WITHOUT A HITCH
I'VE NEVER REALLY BEEN HURT NOR FELT THE FRUSTRATION OF FAILURE
WHEN I WAS A CHILD, I WAS CALLED A PRODIGY
I GOT INTO A PRESTIGIOUS ESCALATOR SCHOOL, AND MY GRADES WERE ALWAYS TOP OF THE CLASS
I WAS THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND CAPTAIN OF THE SWIMMING TEAM
HAJIME ERI A MAN WITHOUT A SHADOW OF ANYTHING
I'M JUST DULL, DULL MAN I'VE NEVER BEEN IN THE POSITION OF INFERIORITY
I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY ADVICE TO HELP YOU
SEVENTEEN
YEAH, YOUR STEP-BROTHER GOROU-SAN, WAS IT?
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING... WHY SHOULD HE...!
MY BROTHER?
I KNOW, HOW ABOUT YOUR BROTHER?
WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT THE GROUP TRIP THIS SPRING?
WE'RE SHORT ONE GUY
IT'D BE NICE TO GO WITH THE SAME NUMBER OF GIRLS AND GUYS

I WON'T THINK SO.
OH...? EVEN IF THERE'LL BE ALOT OF GIRLS THERE?
HE'S NOT INTERESTED IN COLLEGE GIRLS. HE'S ALREADY 26
HE'S NOT THE OUTDOORS TYPE!
BUT I HAVEN'T THANKED HIM DIRECTLY FOR THE RING YET...
LIH, WELL... HE WON'T KNOW ANYONE THERE...!
?
?
LIH...
KA...
KANDA-SAN?
ALTHOUGH HE GIVES OFF AN AIR OF MATURITY. SO WONDERFUL.
REALLY? HE LOOKS YOUNGER THAN THAT!
AND ABOVE ALL...
ANYWAY, THERE'S NO WAY GOROU, WHO'S GAY, WOULD COME TO COLLEGE STUDENT OUTING.
RATHER THAN INCREASING THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE TRIP...
IT'D BE BETTER IF IT WERE JUST THE TWO OF US...
I CAN'T LET ANYONE FIND OUT ABOUT ANY-THING!
OR THAT GOROU IS ACTUALLY PAPA'S "WIFE"...!
MANAGER EBI. SOMEONE'S HERE AT THE RECEPTION DESK TO SEE YOU
A HARASHIMA-SAN

IT SEEMS TO BE A WOMAN
A MAN OR A WOMAN?
THAT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD EITHER
HARA-SHIMA?
WARY
THAT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD
OH, I KNEW IT! YOU WERE PRETENDING TO BE OUT
AN-OTHER WOMAN.
THIS TIME A SUGIYAMA-SAN.
I HAVE A REALLY BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...!
HELLO! THANK YOU FOR THE OTHER DAY.
ALRIGHT.
TELL HER THAT I'M OUT.
WHAT A BAD THING TO BE REMEMBERING... I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT GOROU
THERE'S ANOTHER PERSON HERE TO SEE YOU


BUT YOU TRICKED ME USING A FAKE NAME LIKE THAT.
HARASHIMA YUMIKO
I SEE SO YOU ARE IN INSURANCE SALES?
JERK
WELL, I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL THOUGH. YOU DON'T WANT YOUR COMPANY TO FIND OUT, RIGHT?
THAT YOUR BROTHER IS GA—
cough
MAY I ASK WHAT IT IS THAT YOU'VE COME TO TALK ABOUT?
WHEN I DIVORCED, I TOOK MY MAIDEN NAME SUGIYAMA BACK.
BUT I STILL USE HARASHIMA FOR WORK.
HO HO HO
smile
(for business use)
HOW MANY CHILDREN DO YOU HAVE?
HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY'S FUTURE?
BUT YOU WERE TRYING TO TRICK ME PRETENDING TO BE OUT.
OH, EXCUSE ME. I THINK I MAY HAVE A COLD COMING ON
RATHER FAR FROM IT ACTUALLY—
OH, THAT'S WHEN THEY ARE THE CUTEST! YOU MUST BE LOOKING FORWARD TO HER GROWING UP.
MY DAUGHTER IS NOT EVEN SIX YET!
IS THIS SOME KIND OF BLACK MAIL?
YES, SCHOOL TUITION! DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION WILL COST?
FUTURE?

OH... EXCUSE ME I WASN'T LAUGHING I THOUGHT I WAS ABOUT TO SNEEZE AGAIN
THAT'S VERY UNFORTUNATE TO HEAR. WHAT HAPPENED THIS TIME?
MY WIFE TOOK OUR DAUGHTER AND WENT BACK TO HER PARENTS
HUH!? AGAIN!?
I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT. THAT OUR CHILD WOULD BE SUBJECTED TO THAT. SO I SAID TO MY WIFE...
OH, THAT'S .
WELL LATELY, THERE HAS BEEN A FEW SCHOOL BULLIES...
"IS IT THAT YOUR METHOD OF RAISING HER IS BAD?"
IT'S LIKE I THOUGHT, YOU ARE A HORRIBLE PARENT. HAHA! YOU BETTER BUY INSURANCE FOR THE SCHOOL TUITION IN THAT CASE! AHAHAHA!
YOU REALLY ARE JUST AN IDIOT!
WAHAHAHA
HEE
AHAHAHA!! AHAHA... WHAT AN IDIOT!! HAHAHA...
PFFFF ..... !!

I'M HARUNA KANDA. I'M CALLING FOR NAOTO-KUN.
I'M SORRY NAOTO HASN'T COME HOME YET
UM...
HELLO, THIS IS THE HARASHIMA RESIDENCE
UM, HELLO?
OH MY GOD I CAN'T BELIEVE IT WHY ARE YOU AT NAOTO-KUN'S HOUSE...!?
GOROU-CHAN, WHO IS IT?
YOUR VOICE... COULD YOU BE...
HIS BROTHER!? EH!?
CHUMMY
OH, NAOTO! WELCOME HOME
IS THERE A VISITOR?
HUH...?
I'M HOME!

FALTER
AH! WHEN I CALLED YOUR BROTHER PICKED UP SO I THOUGHT IT'D BE PERFECT TIMING FOR ME TO THANK HIM.
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS...
WH-...
ENOUGH ABOUT THAT. COME ON AND EAT GOROU-CHAN'S COOKING IS DELICIOUS!
WHY ARE YOU ALL...
I CAUGHT A BIT OF A COLD... I COULDN'T COOK SO I HAD HIM COME OVER.
COUGH
IT'S LIKE A WHOLE NEW FAMILY!
THIS IS SO WONDERFUL.
...
STILL, BOTH FAMILIES GET ALONG SO WELL TOGETHER!
EVEN THOUGH YOU AND NAOTO-KUN'S FATHER DIVORCED, AND THEN HE MARRIED GOROU-SAN'S MOTHER.

KANDA-SAN, YOU NEEDED TO TALK TO ME? I'LL TAKE YOU HOME
OH, SO SHE'S 10 YEARS OLDER THAN HIM
FIFTY-EIGHT
WHISPER
HOW OLD IS YOUR MOTHER, GOROU-CHAN?
LET'S JUST PLAY ALONG
SMILE.
AUNTIE, PLEASE TAKE CARE!
GOROU-SAN, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE FOOD.
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF SHE FOUND OUT ABOUT US? I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DID THAT!
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU TWO THINKING!?
I TRY TELLING ME HOW YOU CAN RESPECT HER!
WELL I RESPECT YUMIKO-SAN AS A WOMAN
BUT I WANTED TO EAT SOME GOOD FOOD
YOU WON'T MAKE IT FOR ME, NAOTO.
ENOUGH WITH THE SARCASM! ALL YOU DO IS LIE!
YOU TOO, GOROU! DON'T COME AT HER EVERY CALL AND BECKON!
I SERIOUSLY DOUBT WHAT COMMON SENSE YOU HAVE. THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU TWO ARE TO EACH OTHER!! YOU'RE THE EX-WIFE AND THE NEW WIFE HERE!
GOROU-CHAN, WHEN YOU SMILE YOU'RE ACTUALLY VERY CUTE YOU'RE USUALLY EXPRESSIONLESS SO IT'S EVEN MORE SO.

ESPECIALLY THAT SOMEONE WHO CONSTANTLY COMES OVER FOR DINNER.
mutter
LET'S JUST STOP WITH THIS GOING TO AND FROM EACH OF OUR HOUSES
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T ACCEPT THEIR RELATIONSHIP. BUT IF OTHERS WERE TO SEE IT, IT'S DEFINITELY STRANGE!
NAO-CHAN, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
MAMA, YOU TOO! YOU WERE ALL AGAINST PAPA AND GOROU IN THE BEGINNING!
AS YOU WISH, I'LL NEVER COME OVER AGAIN
AH, GOROU CHAN!
YEAH, SORRY LET'S NEVER ASSOCIATE TOGETHER LIKE ONE FAMILY AGAIN
RUSTLE
WELL, EXCUSE ME BUT PAPA IS MY FATHER.
OH, YES..
ONE MORE THING
HERE, YOU'RE JUST A COMPLETE STRANGER
NAO

IT'S CONTAGIOUS
I'VE KEPT QUIET ABOUT THIS, BUT TRUTHFULLY, BEING GAY CAN BE PASSED ON TO OTHERS
SLAM
BUT YOU SAID THAT IT WASN'T HEREDITARY
AND! I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE GOING OUT WITH SUCH A CUTE GIRL
WHAT'S WITH YOUR ATTI-TUDE?
IT'S SCARY BECAUSE HE SAID IT
EVEN THOUGH I KNOW HE'S LYING
I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS, BUT YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO TREAT GOROU-CHAN THE WAY YOU DID. HE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE TO SEE HOW I WAS DOING
MAMA...!? YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO HER, DID...?
I DIDN'T SAY A THING
SO YOU HAVEN'T TOLD HER ABOUT PAPA'S SITUATION YET?
YOU CAN'T KEEP HIDING IT FROM HER IF YOU PLAN TO KEEP GOING OUT WITH HER.

GOROU-CHAN CAME OVER TO MAKE RICE PORRIDGE FOR ME SINCE I CAUGHT A COLD
HE THEN WENT AND MADE OTHER DISHES FOR ME TO BE KEPT IN THE REFRIGERATOR UNTIL READY TO BE EATEN
YOU BETTER CALL HIM UP LATER!
ARE YOU SAYING THAT I'M THE ONE AT FAULT HERE!?
I'M THE ONE WITH THE GAY FATHER, AND IT'S MY FAULT!?
I KNOW THAT BUT.
WELL, I ADMIT THAT I WAS WRONG THERE
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO HIDE THAT FROM YOUR GIRLFRIEND FOREVER?
IT FEELS LIKE I'M LOSING MORE AND MORE CONTROL OF EVERYTHING AROUND ME...
SLAM
I'M SO DEPRESSED
YOUR BROTHER IS SO WONDERFUL!
SLIDE
GRUMBLE GRUMBLE GRUMBLE

GOROU.
...HAJIME-NIISAN
IS TODAY MY UNLUCKY DAY OR WHAT...?
WELCOME
...WON'T YOU COME IN? BUT YOU DON'T WANT TO, I'M SURE
SO HURRY UP AND GO HOME
...WHY DON'T YOU EVER LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY?
GOROU, COME BACK HOME!
WHAT'S EVER GOING TO COME OUT OF DOING THIS?
YOU HAVE A GOOD HOME WAITING FOR YOU! IT'S A QUIET LIFE WHERE YOU CAN ACTUALLY LIVE LIKE A HUMAN BEING!
FAMILY WILL ALWAYS BE THERE TO TAKE YOU BACK
...DID YOU HAVE A FIGHT WITH YOUR WIFE AGAIN?
COULD YOU STOP THINKING ABOUT YOUR UNFORTUNATE LITTLE BROTHER EVERY TIME SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS TO YOU!?
WHY DON'T YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR OWN FAMILY BEFORE WORRYING ABOUT ME?
I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT...
THE ONE I'M WORRIED ABOUT IS YOU, NII-SAN...

WHO THE HELL IS HE!? DID YOU BREAK UP WITH HARASHIMA AND MOVE ON TO ANOTHER GUY ALREADY!?
...HE IS HARA-SHIMA-SAN
I'M HOME...
DO WE HAVE A GUEST? HOW ABOUT COMING IN?
I WANTED TO GREET HIM PROPERLY...
BUT YOUR BROTHER LEFT SO QUICKLY
IT'S ALRIGHT. HE ONLY CAME HERE TO CHASTISE ME AGAIN...
SPEAKING OF WHICH, I HAVEN'T MET ANY OF YOUR FAMILY YET I SHOULD REALLY GO GREET THEM PROPERLY...
ring
ring
ring
ring
ring
ring
ring
ring
ring
ring
DON'T WORRY ABOUT MY FAMILY
I CAN'T LEAVE IT LIKE THIS! I MUST AT LEAST MEET YOUR MOTHER
THEY'RE NOT THE UNDERSTANDING TYPE...

AH...
MOTHER...?
HELLO? THIS IS THE HARASHIMA RESIDENCE
...GORO!?
HOW ARE YOU DOING?
I HEARD EVERYTHING FROM HAJIME AREN'T YOU IMPOSING YOURSELF ON THAT FAMILY?
...WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? I MUST AT LEAST GREET THEM PROPERLY
AH... ALRIGHT
YES
HUH!? DINNER WITH EVERYONE?
AND...
TO INVITE YUMIKO-SAN AND NAOTO ALONG TOO...
I'M GONNA KILL HIM
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL... MOTHER SAID TO COME OVER FOR DINNER NEXT SUNDAY...
WHAT DID SHE SAY?
THAT'S PERFECT. LET'S GO!

...SO WHO I SAW LAST NIGHT WAS THE REAL HARASHIMA?
FALLING IN LOVE MARRYING A MAN...
I DON'T EVEN WANT TO BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND HIS TASTE!
THEN WHO WAS THE MAN I MET BEFORE...?
THAT WAS MY EX-BOY-FRIEND...
YOU REALLY HAVE TO TRUST YOUR BROTHER'S TASTE MORE
OH, EXCUSE ME
THAT'S YOUR EX-HUSBAND WE'RE TALKING ABOUT
OH, THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT. IT'S ALL IN THE PAST
ANYWAY, HAVE YOU GIVEN THE CONTRACT ANY MORE THOUGHT?
I'VE BROUGHT ALL SORTS OF PAMPHLETS WITH ME
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION BUT...
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH MONEY IT COSTS TO FUND A COLLEGE EDUCATION?
WELL, SHE'LL BE GOING TO A NATIONALLY RENOWNED ONE
IT'S SETTLED!
PUSHING YOUR OWN THOUGHTS ABOUT EVERYTHING ON YOUR FAMILY LIKE THAT...!
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE NOT GETTING ALONG WITH YOUR WIFE!
SO AR-RO-GANT!

OH, IT'S NOT THAT HO HO— IT'S JUST A JOKE
I APO-LOGIZE
OH, WHAT ABOUT THE CONTRACT—?
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO STAND THAT ATTITUDE OF YOURS SINCE BEFORE EITHER
THAT'S DESPICABLE OF YOU!
—WHY ARE YOU BRINGING THIS UP!?
HUH?
TUBO
OH, RIGHT!
NEXT WEEK SUNDAY, YOU MUST COME OVER!
I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THIS!
HUH?
UH— WHAT THE—?
WE'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO SETTLE THIS MATTER WITH GOROU.
DON'T RUN AWAY, ALRIGHT? MOTHER HAS BEEN PREPARING FOR IT—

BUT IT SEEMS THAT MY BROTHER SAID SOMETHING THAT INCITED MY MOTHER TO DO THIS
WELL, I DIDN'T PLAN TO GET YOU TWO INVOLVED IN THIS SO I'VE KEPT QUIET ABOUT IT.
WHY MUST NAOTO AND I GO TOO . !?
BUT GOROU-CHAN, WON'T THAT REFLECT BADLY ON YOU?
Oh.
I'LL GO WITH JUST YUUJI-SAN
HUH? IT'S AT YOUR PARENT'S HOUSE, GOROU-CHAN!?
IT'S FINE. IT'S UNCOMFORTABLE FOR ME NO MATTER HOW MANY PEOPLE GO
THAT'S TRUE, IT'S NOT ANY OF OUR BUSINESS
I WAS ONLY AGAINST YOUR RELATIONSHIP OUT OF ENVY BEFORE
GOROU-CHAN ...
SO YOUR MOTHER IS AGAINST YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YUUJI?
WE SUPPORT YOU ALL THE WAY
SO HANG IN THERE
SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO EVEN WANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT I'M GAY
MY MOTHER IS THE OLD-FASHIONED TYPE

HMMM
NAOTO! ARE YOU STILL NOT GOING TO APOLOGIZE TO GOROU-CHAN?
WHAT DOES IT MATTER? I WON'T BE SEEING HIM AGAIN
JERK
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT IT'S OK IF YOU NEVER GET TO EAT HIS COOKING AGAIN, BALDIE?
I KNOW WHAT'S THE REAL PROBLEM HERE
I KNOW THAT
SINCE WE HAVE NO OBLIGATION TO GO SEE GOROU'S MOTHER
WELL, IT IS A DIFFICULT MATTER...
"OH SMAP IS SO CUTE" OR "THOSE FLOWERS ARE PRETTY"
I KNOW THAT IT'S LIKE HER SAYING
"YOUR BROTHER IS WONDERFUL"
*EDITORS NOTE- SMAP IS A ROCK BAND
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN JUST SMILE AND LAUGH IT OFF

YES...
MY MOTHER WORKED AS A NURSE AND RAISED MY BROTHER, THREE SISTERS, AND ME
WHAT AN INCREDIBLE MOTHER.
BUT I DON'T HANDLE HER WELL..
YOU LOST YOUR FATHER IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT TWENTY YEARS AGO, RIGHT?
SHE CAN'T JUST LISTEN TO ME..
SHE JUST DECIDES THAT I HAVE TO GO HOME AGAIN.
I'M SURE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CONVINCE HER IF YOU JUST SIT DOWN AND TALK TO HER
ring ring ring ring
HMM? JUST WHEN WE'RE ABOUT TO LEAVE?
HUH!?
THE COMPANY PRESIDENT COLLAPSED PLAYING GOLF WITH SOME CLIENTS!?
WHAT HOSPITAL WAS HE TAKEN TO?
YES, I UNDERSTAND. I'LL GO IMMEDIATELY!
YUUJI-SA..

I'M SORRY, GOROU!
I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU NEXT TIME!
BUT I HAVE TO GO RIGHT AWAY
APOLOGIZE TO YOUR MOTHER FOR ME!
I'M REALLY SORRY!
SLAM
Take care.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT IT'S FINE, YOU SHOULD GO
NO... I DON'T WANT TO GO THERE BY MYSELF NOT A CHANCE IN HELL
BUT IF I DON'T GO AND EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED THEY'LL THINK I'M RUNNING AWAY. AND WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE THEY'LL SAY AFTER.
But I don't want to...
THIS IS JUST WHAT NII-SAN WANTED...
UMM... HEY...

.. TODAY YUUJI-SAN AND I ARE SUPPOSED TO GO TO SEE MY MOTHER, BUT SOMETHING CAME UP AND HE CAN'T GO...
WELL IT DOESN'T MATTER AT THIS POINT IT SHOULD BE OK IF HE'S THERE AT LEAST...
ERR..?
HEY
W-WHAT'S WRONG?
BUT IF I SHOW UP BY MYSELF, SHE'LL PROBABLY JUST TELL ME TO SEPARATE FROM HIM.
THAT'S... HORRIBLE! YOU SHOULDN'T GO THEN
THEN WHAT ABOUT ME? I'LL GO WITH YOU TO EXPLAIN THINGS!
BUT IF I DON'T GO, I DON'T THINK THEY'LL EVER COME TO ACCEPT OUR RELATIONSHIP...
THAT WAS TOO EASY
DESPITE ALL THAT'S SAID AND DONE, 26 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH DEALING WITH MEN.
MY MOTHER AND SISTERS BOTH THINK THAT MARRIAGES BETWEEN MEN ARE SOME SORT OF CHILDISH FANTASY, LIKE PLAYING HOUSE
I WANT TO SHOW THEM THAT I'M SERIOUS ABOUT THIS
YEAH, I KNOW I'LL BE WATCHING YOUR BACK.
WHAT? IT'S JUST THE TWO OF YOU?

HUH? WHAT DOES SHE HAVE TO DO WITH THIS? I'M PAPA'S SON, SO I ..
HEY, WAIT A SECOND! WHY ISN'T YOUR MOM HERE!?
IT WAS A PROMISE!!
ANNOYED
WHERE'S HARASHIMA-SAN? DON'T TELL ME THAT HE RAN OFF ON YOU.
SOMETHING CAME UP I'LL EXPLAIN LATER
GOROU, ARE YOU HERE?
?
No it wasn't.
WELL, WELL. HELLO THERE DON'T JUST STAND THERE, COME ON IN
WOW, THEY'RE ALL GORGEOUS
AND THE THIRD, SHIORI
USE YOUR HEAD FOR A SECOND NOT ONE OF THEM IS MARRIED YET FOR A REASON.
MUTTER
I AM GOROU'S MOTHER
THESE ARE MY DAUGHTERS
THE SECOND ELDEST, MIDORI
THE ELDEST DAUGHTER, FUTABA

I'VE OFFICIALLY MARRIED AND ENTERED THE HARASHIMA REGISTRY.
BUT ACCORDING TO THE FAMILY REGISTRY, I WOULD BE HIS YOUNGER BROTHER...
OH... NICE TO MEET YOU I'M...
HMM?
THIS IS MY SON, NAOTO HARASHIMA.
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
IT'S ALL A FORMALITY, ISN'T IT?
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'RE ACTUALLY LIVING TOGETHER.
THIS PARENT-CHILD ACT IS ALL AD LIB.
OH, LOOK AT NAOTO-KUN, HE'S ALL BEWILDERED. THEY DIDN'T MEET UP TO PREPARE SOMETHING BEFORE COMING?
sting
sting
sting
sting
WHEN WILL YOU BE COMING BACK HOME, GOROU?
IT'LL BE A NUISANCE FOR THEM IF YOU KEEP IMPOSING ON THEIR FAMILY
I'M SURE YOU DON'T LIKE IT, SO THERE'S NO NEED TO PUSH YOURSELF
YOU TWO DON'T GET ALONG, DO YOU, NAOTO-KUN?
WHEN I GOT MARRIED I MOVED OUT OF THE HOUSE!
HOW CAN HE LIVE, HAVING GROWN UP IN A FAMILY LIKE THIS ..?
I KNOW, DEAR. BUT YOU CAN STILL LIVE AT HOME AND GO SEE THEM WHEN YOU LIKE
MOTHER, I'M MARRIED
WHY MUST THEY START PICKING FIGHTS RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING?

EXCUSE ME, MAY I HAVE A WORD TOO? ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT SOUND STRANGE...
BUT IF YOU LEAVE THE HOUSE FOR TOO LONG, THE NEIGHBORS WILL THINK THAT SOMETHING WEIRD IS GOING ON
YES, I KNOW THAT. YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SOMEONE WHO'S NEVER GONE BACK ON HIS WORD.
NAOTO-KUN, DO YOU LIKE MEN ALSO?
GOROU AND MY FATHER REALLY GET ALONG WELL. THEY'RE SO PASSIONATE ABOUT EACH OTHER
MOTHER, COME HERE FOR A SECOND
WE ONLY WANTED GOROU TO COME.
WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT DINNER?
WHAT DO WE DO...? I DIDN'T THINK HE'D REALLY BRING SOMEONE FROM THE OTHER FAMILY ALONG
OH... SO BEING GAY ISN'T HEREDITARY?
DON'T GET ME WRONG! DON'T EVER COMPARE ME TO THAT FATHER OF MINE!
THEY'RE ALL SO MEAN!
IT DOESN'T WORK LIKE THAT!!
THERE ARE RECENT THEORIES SAYING THAT IT MAY BE CONTAGIOUS
THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THEY'RE RELATED...
WHAT WERE THEY THINKING?
ALTHOUGH I INVITED THEM, I DIDN'T THINK THEY WOULD REALLY COME.
IF I KNEW THEY WERE REALLY COMING, I WOULD HAVE ORDERED SUSHI
YOU'RE GOING TO SERVE THEM THAT?
THERE'S NOTHING ELSE WE CAN DO WE'VE ALREADY COOKED.

TO BE EXPECTED FROM GOROU'S FAMILY...!
WOW!!
PLEASE, NAOTO-KUN GO AHEAD AND EAT WHATEVER YOU PLEASE
I KNOW THAT GOROU IS GOOD AT COOKING, BUT IT APPEARS THAT HIS ENTIRE FAMILY IS TOO!
EVERYTHING LOOKS SO DELICIOUS!
THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD
OH, THAT'S THE DISH FUTABA MADE
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU WERE THE ONE WHO MADE IT.
THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD
IF YOU WOULD EXCUSE ME, I NEED TO USE THE BATHROOM
AH... THE TASTE OF MOTHER'S COOKING
SMILE

A-ALRIGHT...
DO NOT GO FURTHER PAST THIS CORRIDOR.
AND I'M WARNING YOU NOW...
THE BATH-ROOM IS RIGHT THIS WAY.
OH, THANK YOU
IT'S A TASTE THAT MADE US CRY WHILE EATING WHEN WE WERE CHILDREN
YOU HAVEN'T IMPROVED YOUR COOKING AT ALL SINCE THEN, HAVE YOU?
puh
puh
puh
fsssh
I CAN'T GET RID OF THIS OVER-WHELMING TASTE FROM MY TONGUE!
THAT FOOD WAS SOOOOO BAD THAT...
HOW RUDE!
AND YOU WANTED TO SERVE THIS TO HARA-SHIMA!?
DID YOU MAKE IT TASTE LIKE THIS ON PURPOSE!?
HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT TO YOUR MOTHER! BESIDES, THE ONE WHO DID THE SEASONING WAS SHIORI!
IT'S ALL GOROU'S FAULT. HE'S THE ONE WHO LEFT HOME BY HIMSELF...
IT'S BECAUSE YOU MADE GOROU DO ALL THE HOUSEWORK THAT IT'S TURNED OUT LIKE THIS!
HOLD ON A SECOND!!
WE WORK UNTIL LATE AT NIGHT. WHO HAS TIME TO DO THE COOKING...
ARE YOU MOCKING WOMEN WHO WORK!?
WE'RE ALL BUSY WITH WORK, SO WE HAD NO CHOICE
NII-SAN, YOU LET HIM DO IT ALL TOO!
THAT'S BECAUSE I'M A MAN!

SPEAKING OF WHICH, YOU'RE ALL MARRIED AND LIVING ON YOUR OWN WHY DO YOU SUDDENLY CARE ABOUT GOROU'S SITUATION SO MUCH?
COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE NOT GETTING ALONG WITH YOUR WIFE?
DON'T TELL ME THAT THE REASON YOU'RE TRYING TO GET GOROU TO COME HOME IS THAT YOU WANT HIM TO DO ALL THE HOUSEWORK FOR YOU.
DO YOU EVEN CARE TO MAKE HIM SEPARATE FROM THAT GUY!?
...!
WHO WANTS TO MEET THEIR YOUNGER BROTHER'S LOVER?
HE'S THE ONE WHO GETS TO EAT VERY WELL EVERY DAY IS HE FINE WITH THE FACT THAT HIS OWN FLESH AND BLOOD HAS TO ENDURE THIS HORRIBLE COOKING?
.....
I'M SERIOUSLY WORRIED ABOUT GOROU'S FUTURE HERE!
THAT'S WHY I SET THIS UP SO WE COULD ALL DISCUSS IT!
I WAS ALWAYS FOND OF THE PHRASE "YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW"—
I'M GOING TO GO GET HER! WHERE IS YOUR HOUSE?
I TOLD HER THAT SHE MUST COME NO MATTER WHAT!
?
HUH ?
HEY, YOU!
IT'S BECAUSE YUMIKO-SAN'S NOT HERE THAT IT TURNED OUT LIKE THIS!

CLICK
HUH?
WHICH WAY DO I GO TO GET BACK?
I WONDER IF HE'LL BE OK...
WHAT DOES MAMA HAVE TO DO WITH THIS?
I TOLD YOU NOT TO GO OVER HERE, DIDN'T I!?
S-SORRY!!
BONK
TUMBLE
TUMBLE
CRASH
THUD
UH...?
SYAAAAAA!!
OH, NO...
YOU TOO NEE-SAN! YOU JUST LEFT THAT HUGE PILE OF LAUNDRY UNDONE!
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO DO TO THAT!
THAT'S WHY I JUST STUFFED EVERYTHING INTO THAT ROOM.
MIDORI!
DIDN'T YOU CLEAN THE HOUSE!?

MOTHER... WE WERE THE ONES WHO MADE HIM DO ALL THE HOUSEWORK IN THE FIRST PLACE
YOU JUST LEFT ALL OF A SUDDEN AND LEFT EVERYTHING ON US
ARE YOU SURPRISED? GOROU... IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT YOU KNOW
AH...
IT'S ME THAT MADE YOU LIKE THIS
I'M SURE YOU LEFT US BECAUSE YOU WERE TIRED OF TAKING CARE OF EVERYTHING FOR US
HOW EMBARRASSING TO HAVE YOU SEE THIS
BUT YOU'RE STILL MY DARLING SON... I JUST WANT YOU TO COME HOME SOME TIME...
MOTHER...
YOU PROBABLY GOT SICK OF WOMEN BECAUSE OF US...
I ONLY LEFT BECAUSE I WANTED TO LIVE WITH THE PERSON I LOVE...
I PROBABLY MADE YOU EXPERIENCE A LOT OF HORRIBLE THINGS...
IT'S ALL MY FAULT...
I WAS SO BUSY THAT I WASN'T THERE TO GIVE YOU THE PROPER LOVE AND ATTENTION

GOROU-SHIN! ARE YOU COMING HOME? WILL YOU BE BACK FOR DINNER? WILL YOU? WILL YOU?
YOU'RE ALL I'VE GOT LEFT...
GOROU-CHAMA...
I'LL CLEAN UP, SO GET UP FROM OVER THERE YOU TOO, SISTERS
YOU CAN STOP YOUR FAKE CRYING
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY SENSE OF FEMININITY? AND YOU ALWAYS HAVE AN OPINION ABOUT EVERYTHING!
MY MOTHER MAY NOT BE VERY GOOD AT HOUSEWORK, BUT AT LEAST SHE WAS A WOMAN WHO KNEW HOW TO DEAL WITH MEN!
ISN'T IT BETTER FOR HARASHIMA AND GOROU TO SEPARATE!? I THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULD HELP ME PERSUADE THEM!
HOW S'TUPID
PEEL PEEL
I NEVER PROMISED ANYTHING!
irri-tated
I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND WHY HARASHIMA BECAME GAY NOW—
DON'T DECIDE EVERYTHING FOR YOURSELF— WHY WOULD I WANT TO GO BACK TO MY GAY HUSBAND?
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM A MAN WHOSE WIFE RAN OFF ON HIM!
NOT THAT AGAIN!
YOU REALLY ARE AN IRRITATING WOMAN!!
IT'S SUNDAY! IT'D BE A DIFFERENT STORY IF YOU CAME HERE TO SIGN AN INSURANCE CONTRACT
SO WHY DID YOU COME ALL THE WAY TO THIS IRRITATING WOMAN'S HOUSE?
YOU PROBABLY HAVE A THING FOR ME, DON'T YOU!?

HEY...
WHY ARE YOU FALLING SILENT AT TIME LIKE THIS?
.....
WHAT'S WRONG?
UMM, I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY THAT IT WAS JUST A JOKE
EBI-SAN?
SLAM
UM...
WAIT A SECOND
WHAT THE HELL?!
EBI-SAN?
BURST

...I HAVE NO CLUE WHAT WOMEN ARE THINKING
I DON'T KNOW I'M A MAN AFTER ALL...
WELL, WHAT WOULD YOU THINK IF YOU WERE A WOMAN?
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE ASSERTIVE ENOUGH
IT SHOULD BE EDIBLE IF I RE-DO THE SEASONING...
SUCH AN OFF-HANDED APOLOGY
HEY, WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THIS?
THIS COOKING IS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME PUKE
I'M SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY...
ARE YOU SAYING THAT SERIOUSLY?
SHE REALLY IS A GOOD PERSON
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOUR MOTHER...

AT LEAST 85% OF HER IS?
I DON'T HANDLE HER TYPE VERY WELL, BUT I RESPECT HER AS A WOMAN
IT'S TOUGH BEING A WORKING WOMAN AND RAISING CHILDREN AT THE SAME TIME
—TO THIS VERY DAY, I'VE ONLY DONE WHAT I CONSIDERED TO BE THE RIGHT THING TO DO
BECAUSE I CONSIDERED DOING THE WRONG THING TO BE A SIGN OF WEAKNESS
THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T ALLOW MY BROTHER TO WALK DOWN THE WRONG PATH—
I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT I'VE NEVER HAD ANY WEAKNESSES SUCH AS THAT
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M EVEN SAYING THIS—
I REALLY CAN'T...
BUT SOMEHOW IT SEEMS THAT...
I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU.

HMM...
MAMA AND THE EBI BROTHER?
HE HUNG UP...
.....?
MAMA!
AH, GIVE ME A SECOND
I'M TAKING OFF MY MASK NOW
I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF ADULTERY
NO WAY...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? STOP IT!
HURRY UP AND ANSWER THE PHONE I THINK IT'S THE OLDER EBI BROTHER
HEY NOW, YOU EBI BROTHERS...
IF THINGS GET ANY MORE COMPLI-CATED
YOU'RE NOT ONLY TAKING PAPA, BUT MAMA NOW TOO?
IT'S GOING TO BE PROBLEMATIC...
◆END◆

OTONA NO MONDAI

ADULT'S PROBLEMS

BY

IMA ICHIKO

SCANNED BY EATHLINN
TRANSLATED BY ARTEMIS
CLEANED BY PYRY
EDITED BY PYRY AND EATHLINN

CHAPTER 5 OF 5
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I want to thank all people who have helped me during this project. It was long journey and I'm sorry it took so long to release this last chapter.
It was all my fault. I was busy, lazy, and just never got it done. But now I'm finally able to offer the end of this story to the enjoyment of all.

ffaynet - special thanks for hosting the chapters!

Best wishes, Eathlinn

HMM... I WONDER IF THIS LIPSTICK IS A BIT TOO RED.
MAMA HAS BECOME PRETTIER LATELY
SHE'S GOT HERSELF A YOUNGER MAN.
YOU'RE GOING OUT THIS LATE?
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO STAY OUT SOMEWHERE, ARE YOU?
WEREN'T YOU THE ONE SAYING HE WAS A PURE IDIOT AND A SELF-RIGHTEOUS, ELITIST SNOB?
STOP IT! THIS IS ALL SO STUPID!
OH, DON'T SAY SUCH CRUDE THINGS WHY DON'T YOU TRY AND PUT SOME MORE EFFORT INTO YOUR APPEARANCE TOO?
YES, IT'S TRUE.
HEY!
WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT HIM...!?
MAMA!
IT'S ALL RIGHT AS LONG AS WE'RE HAVING FUN.
AH, HE'S HERE! HE'S HERE!

HAJIME EBI
33 YEARS OF AGE... A TALL, HANDSOME, ELITE BUSINESSMAN.
IF YOU DISREGARD HIS PERSONALITY, I SUPPOSE IT'S RARE TO FIND AS GOOD A MAN AS HIM
THE PROBLEM IS HE'S TEN YEARS YOUNGER THAN MY MOTHER AND HAS A WIFE AND A CHILD—
Restaurant
Lady
ADULTS' PROBLEMS V

IT'S A NUISANCE
HE'S GOROU'S OLDER BROTHER
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS MY MOTHER IS HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH A MARRIED MAN
AND TO MAKE MATTERS MORE COMPLICATED
COULD YOU STOP COMING TO SEE ME AT WORK WITH SUCH KINDS OF PROBLEMS?
DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, PLEASE
AS YOU CAN SEE, THINGS ARE HECTIC
WE OPENED A NEW OFFICE OVER IN OSAKA
Have you been busy?
BUT YOU'VE BEEN GETTING HOME LATE RECENTLY
SHE IS A TOUGH WOMAN WHO RAISED FIVE CHILDREN ALL ON HER OWN
MY MOTHER PRESIDES AS HEAD NURSE AT THE HOSPITAL WHERE SHE WORKS THE DOCTORS AND PATIENTS FEARFULLY CALL HER "THE ARCHANGEL OF TERROR"
LIM, DOES YOUR MOTHER KNOW ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED WITH MY MOM...?
AND I'M THE ONE WHO WANTS SOMETHING DONE ABOUT IT, YOU KNOW
I can't believe it either. That brother of mine.
SO SHE'S QUITE SCARY, HUH?
I WOULDN'T DARE TO EVEN MENTION IT!
EVER SINCE MY SISTER-IN-LAW WENT BACK TO HER PARENTS, MY MOTHER EVEN BOTHERS ME ABOUT IT WITH HER LITTLE COMMENTS

WHEN EVERYONE AROUND YOU OPPOSES SOMETHING, YOU'LL JUST GET MORE WORKED UP ABOUT IT, RIGHT?
MY BROTHER IS A PERSON THAT HAS NEVER STRAYED FROM THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IN HIS LIFE.
ONCE HE STRAYS OFF THAT PATH, HE'LL PROBABLY NEVER RETURN BACK TO IT.
MANAGER EBI, YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH M CORPORATION AT 3 O'CLOCK THIS AFTERNOON
ALL RIGHT... I'LL JUST GO HOME DIRECTLY FROM THERE TODAY
HOW STUPID...
JUST BECAUSE THE MEDIA IS IN UPROAR ABOUT IT DOESN'T MEAN IT'S ACCEPTABLE
ADULTERY OR WHATNOT IS IMMORAL
HUH!?
You could say that the world is going through an extramarital affair boom now
Research results show that 40% of married women have seen men outside of their husbands on
DOES THAT MEAN WHAT I'M DOING IS ADULTERY!?
SEEING ANOTHER WOMAN WHILE I HAVE A WIFE AND A CHILD
WAIT

I'M A LEVEL-HEADED MAN! AN ALL-AROUND ATHLETE! A PERSON WITH INTEGRITY! I WENT TO A TOP-CLASS UNIVERSITY! AND WORK FOR A TOP-CLASS COMPANY! I'VE LED A STAINLESS, PERFECT LIFE! BUT WHERE DID I GO WRONG!?
HOW DID IT TURN OUT LIKE THIS!?
WHAT AM I DOING—?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE DEALT WITH A WOMAN AS OBNOXIOUS AS YOU!
YOU REALLY ARE AN INSOLENT WOMAN!
ARE YOU SAYING THAT I'M A STAIN TO YOU!?
DON'T KEEP CALLING ME IF THAT'S THE CASE THEN! YOU REALLY ARE AN INCONSIDERATE JERK!
PLEASE, DON'T LEAVE
WHY DON'T YOU THINK ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS FIRST FOR A CHANGE?
I CAN'T HELP BUT GET ANGRY WHENEVER I'M AROUND YOU!
YOU'RE NOTHING LIKE MY WIFE! I'VE FELT NOTHING BUT SATISFACTION FROM HER.
DON'T LEAVE!
THIS IS A FIRST FOR ME
I'M LEAVING!
YOU'RE THE OBNOXIOUS ONE HERE! HOW DARE YOU COMPARE ME TO YOUR WIFE!

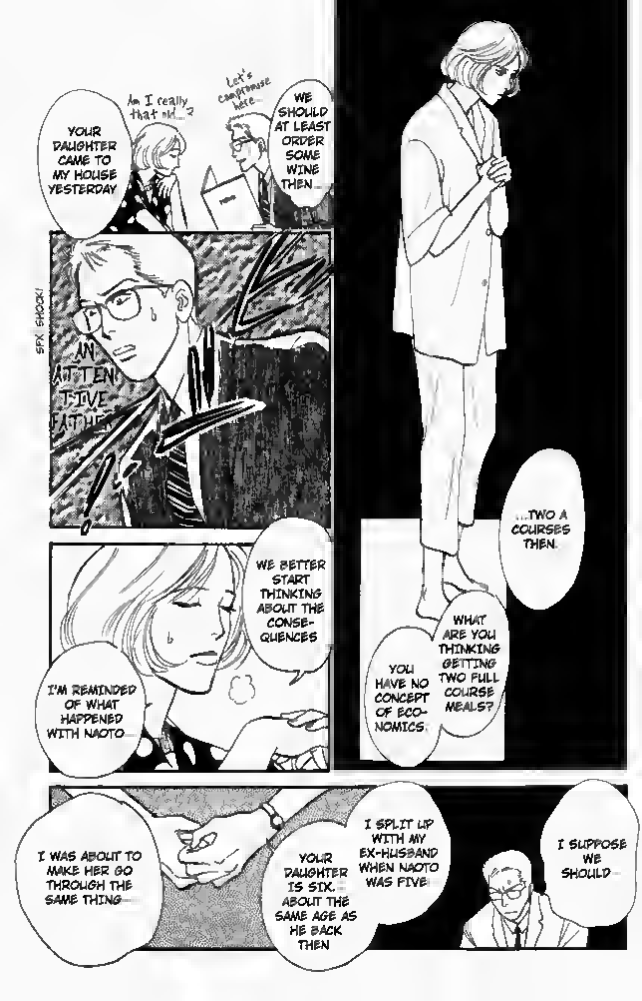
YUMIKO-SAN...
WELL, YOU SHOULD BE A LITTLE MORE HONEST ABOUT YOUR FEELINGS
THAT NAIVETY OF YOURS IS VERY CUTE
I HAVE A HEADACHE
OH
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO
I KEEP GETTING ANGRY... WONDERING WHY I FEEL THIS WAY ABOUT YOU
HARA-SHIMA-KUN
HOW DID IT GET LIKE THIS? IT FEELS LIKE IT'S ALL A BAD DREAM...
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT THEM, THEY APPEAR TO BE SWORN ENEMIES
I SMELL PERFUME...
KANDA-SAN
WA-FU
BUT, YOU LOOK...
...
...YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE FEELING VERY WELL DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
AH, SORRY WHAT'S UP?
NOTHING... I'M ABSOLUTELY FINE!

I CAN'T SAY IT!! I JUST CAN'T TELL HER ABOUT THIS THAT OR ANYTHING!!
REALLY?
IT'S NOTHING JUST THE USUAL
NO
I'D LIKE HER TO LISTEN TO MY PROBLEMS THEN WE COULD WORRY ABOUT THEM TOGETHER.
BUT MY FAMILY JUST HAS TOO MANY CRAZY PROBLEMS
WHAT IS THIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KID DOING HERE?
?
CREAK
NAOTO
MAMA
OH...? DID YOU JUST GET BACK NOW?

HOW BORING!
W-WHAT...
NOTHING BUT AN OLD LADY UP CLOSE.
JUMP
...THAT'S IT?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
Grade 1 Class 3 Tomoe Eiji
DID YOU COME HERE BY YOURSELF?
I SECRETLY FOLLOWED PAPA AND FOUND THAT WOMAN'S HOUSE.
HE WENT TO JOIN THE LITTLE DAUGHTER WITH HER WHEN SHE WENT BACK TO HER PARENTS.
THAT'S HAJIME-SAN'S DAUGHTER!?
OH, NO WHY WAS SHE HERE?

WINCE
SO MY PARENTS ARE REALLY GOING TO SEPARATE
Mr. Hisada?
ARE YOU HER SON, MISTER?
YOU PROBABLY THINK THAT SHE'S A MONSTER FOR DESTROYING YOUR HAPPY FAMILY.
I DON'T CARE EITHER WAY.
BUT SHE'S NOT ALL THAT BAD A PERSON...
UM.
UM, WELL...
SHE'S EVEN SAID THAT SHE SHARES NO COMMON LANGUAGE WITH PAPA EITHER.
WHEN PAPA'S AROUND, MAMA NEVER SMILES
OUR FAMILY WAS ALREADY ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE
PAPA'S THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER THOUGHT WE WERE A HAPPY FAMILY.
WHEN HE'S WITH THAT WOMAN, PAPA TURNS ALL RED, PALE AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN...
ISN'T THAT A GOOD THING FOR HIM?
HE SEEMS TO BE SATISFIED AS LONG AS HE SEES MAMA AND ME ACTING PROPERLY.
AT HOME PAPA'S THE ONLY ONE WHO TALKS, THE ONLY ONE WHO SMILES AND THE ONLY ONE WHO'S HAPPY WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE

WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE GIRL?
I CALLED GOROU-CHAN AND HAD HIM TAKE HER HOME
You can't be a "mister" but you can be "Daring-Chan"?
What are you doing?
I WONDER IF THEY'LL GET A DIVORCE
SHE'S VERY SHARP
BUT FOR A SIX-YEAR-OLD TO BE ABLE TO REASON LIKE THAT...
YOU'RE ONLY SIX, RIGHT...?
SHE SURE IS AN EBI
AH, GOROU-CHAN!
OH NO...
I NEVER INTENDED TO BREAK UP THEIR FAMILY
YOU'RE JUST HAVING A LITTLE FUN
YES, BUT... I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WITH HIS CHILD
CHILDREN ARE SURPRISINGLY TOUGH
JUST THINK ABOUT IT I WAS ONLY FIVE WHEN YOU AND PAPA GOT DIVORCED
I WAS ABLE TO GROW UP JUST FINE


I'm I really that old...?
Let's continue here.
WE SHOULD AT LEAST ORDER SOME WINE THEN...
YOUR DAUGHTER CAME TO MY HOUSE YESTERDAY
SFX: SHOCK!
I AM AN ATTENTIVE FATHER
...TWO A COURSES THEN.
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING GETTING TWO FULL COURSE MEALS?
YOU HAVE NO CONCEPT OF ECONOMICS.
WE BETTER START THINKING ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES
I'M REMINDED OF WHAT HAPPENED WITH NAOTO...
I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD...
I SPLIT UP WITH MY EX-HUSBAND WHEN NAOTO WAS FIVE.
YOUR DAUGHTER IS SIX... ABOUT THE SAME AGE AS HE BACK THEN
I WAS ABOUT TO MAKE HER GO THROUGH THE SAME THING...

LET'S BREAK UP
PLEASE MARRY ME
WHAT...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I'LL GET A DIVORCE.
THINKING ABOUT IT, I MARRIED HER BECAUSE I THOUGHT SHE WAS AN APPROPRIATE PARTNER FOR ME, NOT BECAUSE I WANTED TO MARRY HER.
YES, BUT YOU-
PLUS, YOU'RE STILL MARRIED
WE THINK TOO DIFFERENTLY AND OUR AGES ARE TOO FAR APART.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE!
I JUST WANT TO MARRY YOU!

WEL-COME BACK
NAO-CHAN
I'M HOME
PLEASE, MARRY ME!
BUT YOU USED TO CRY A LOT AT NIGHT
FOR THE MOST PART, IT WAS A CLEAN BREAK FOR THE BOTH OF US
WHEN PAPA AND I GOT A DIVORCE
I CAN'T LET THE SAME THING HAPPEN TO THAT LITTLE GIRL.
CHILDREN SURELY GET HURT IN ALL OF THIS
OH... THAT HAPPENED?
FOR A WHILE THERE, YOU DIDN'T GO TO KINDERGARTEN
EVEN YOUR DAD DIDN'T PROPOSE AS PASSIONATELY TO ME
AAH BUT I FEEL LIKE I'M DANCING IN THE CLOUDS!
I KNOW THAT I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO ACCEPT!
HE PROPOSED TO ME!
SO YOU TWO BROKE UP!?

I SUPPOSE I'M TOUCHED BY HIS YOUTHFUL ENTHUSIASM...!
DON'T YOU THINK THAT I'M SHINING BRIGHTER NOW THAN I HAVE ALL MY LIFE?
...MARRIAGE?
WHAT ABOUT TOMOE-CHAN?
SHE SAID SHE WAS TIRED OF HEARING EVERYONE BAD MOUTH HER FATHER, SO NOW SHE'S AT HER MOTHER'S
HE HASN'T GOT A DIVORCE YET,
SO HOW DID IT COME TO THIS?
I GUESS WE'LL ALL HAVE TO SIT DOWN AND HAVE A TALK
HE MIGHT CALM DOWN AND RECONSIDER ONCE HE SEES HIS DAUGHTER'S FACE
BY THE WAY, I'VE BEEN WONDERING SINCE LAST TIME... WHY DO YOU SMELL LIKE PERFUME?
HUH? OH, MAMA TOLD ME TO PUT MORE EFFORT INTO MY APPEARANCE AND STUFF.
I'd have smelled you a mile away
USE COLOGNE LIKE A NORMAL MAN!
Oh. That's?
PLEASE STOP THEM! THIS IS A FAVOUR OF A LIFETIME!

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE DINED OUT WE'VE BOTH BEEN SO BUSY LATELY
I'M SORRY THAT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO COOK FOR SO LONG
IT'S ALL R--- ANYWAY, YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT SOMETHING?
IT'S ABOUT THE NEW BRANCH OFFICE IN OSAKA THEY ASKED ME TO BE THE MANAGER THERE
OH?
SO THEY DID OFFER IT TO YOU
...KANDA-SAN?
OH
YOU'RE HARASHIMA-KUN'S BROTHER!
CONGRATU-LATIONS
EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT
WELL... THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING!
THANK YOU I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO MEET UP WITH YOU HERE
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'LL GIVE HIM SOME COLOGNE AS A PRESENT THE NEXT TIME I SEE HIM.
...HIS MOTHER'S PERFUME!?
OH MY . WAS THAT ALL IT WAS? I WAS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT-

I'VE BEEN FAR TOO HAPPY UP UNTIL NOW.
How brazen!
Look, a homo couple?
I'LL THINK ABOUT OSAKA A LITTLE MORE
IT'S FOR WORK, THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT
IT'LL WORK OUT SOMEHOW.
STIFFEN...
I THOUGHT I'D ASK YOU TO COME HELP ME PICK OUT A COLOGNE FOR NAOTO-KUN
...DOES HE KNOW ABOUT THIS...?
UM, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP EARLIER.
BUT, UM...

MAMA DIDN'T COME HOME LAST NIGHT
SHE DIDN'T EVEN CALL HOME
The recklessness of love affairs, huh?
SFX: SHE FOUND OUT!?
LIM, I HEARD ABOUT IT FROM YOUR BROTHER...
HARA-SHIMA-KUN
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT... THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOUR DAD AND HIM...?
YEAH, WELL...
IT WAS HARD HIDING IT...
MY DAD'S GAY
BUT... HAHA, IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE SUCH A BIG DEAL NOW.
HA HA
AH...
HA
MAN...
WERE YOU SHOCKED!?
HA
HA HA
MAN, SO IT'S ALL OUT...
A HA HA HA

KANDA-SAN?
SORRY, BUT I FEEL LIKE I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU ANYMORE
HUH?
IT'S NOT SUCH BIG DEAL...?
THAT'S PHYSIOLOGICALLY WRONG!
DO YOU REALLY FEEL THAT WAY?
KANDA-SAN!?
THAT'S
Oh no
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT, BABY!
PHYSIO-LOGICALLY WRONG!
I HAVEN'T TOLD MOTHER ABOUT YUMIKO-SAN YET
WHERE'S TOMOE?
OH, THE TWO UNWORTHY SONS ARE HERE
YOU DON'T LOOK TOO GOOD SHE'S OUT WITH SHIORI BUYING THE CAKE.
Did you just say that you understand my feelings?
OUR FAMILY IS SO SELF-CONSCIOUS
I SORT OF UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS NOW
NII-SAN, YOU'VE REALLY CHANGED!

HAJIME,
WHY WON'T YOU GO AND TRY TO WORK THINGS OUT WITH IKUKO-SAN?
COME AND SIT DOWN.
WHY ISN'T MIDORI-NEESAN HERE?
SHE'S AT HER BOYFRIEND'S HOUSE SHE'LL BE GETTING MARRIED SOON.
STOMP STOMP
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...
MIDORI'S BACK.
MOTHER, THE TRUTH IS-
RUSTLE
WE BROKE UP!
FLOP
GASP!
!?
HIS MOTHER HIRED A PRIVATE DETECTIVE TO CHECK UP ON ME!
WHY!?

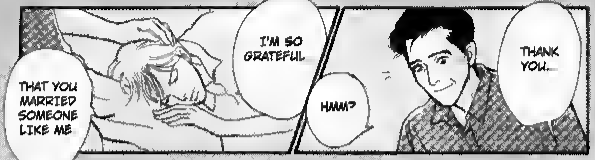
SO YOU HAVE A YOUNGER BROTHER?
I HEAR THAT HE'S LIVING WITH ANOTHER MAN CURRENTLY.
...WHAT IS WITH ALL THAT?
Hey, is that true!?
IF YOU TWO WERE TO GET MARRIED, WE'D ALL BECOME FAMILY RELATIONS
WE CAN'T ASSOCIATE WITH SUCH A PERSON.
GOING OUT OF HER WAY TO FIND FAULT WITH ME! I'M THE ONE WHO'S TURNING THEM DOWN!
Even if you say that...
NOT LIKE THAT!!
YOU WENT OFF TO GET HAPPILY MARRIED YOURSELF, BUT IT ENDED UP RUINING SOMEONE ELSE'S HAPPINESS!!
...SUCH A PITY.
...GOROU, AREN'T YOU GOING TO SAY ANYTHING?
WE'RE HOME!
OH, PAPA'S HERE!
TOMOE, PAPA CAME TO PICK YOU UP
TOMOE...
BUT ISN'T PAPA GETTING MARRIED TO THAT OTHER WOMAN?
AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU THAT OUR ENTIRE FAMILY-...

IT'S OK, GO AND GET MARRIED.
BUT THEN THAT MISTER WILL BECOME MY BIG BROTHER.
...HAJIME
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
MOTHER, I'M SORRY
THE TRUTH IS...
—SUCH A MAN IS NO SON OF MINE!
HOW SHAME-LESS!
MOTHER
FUTABA, MIDORI, SHIORI NONE OF YOU WILL BE ABLE TO GET MARRIED NOW!
YOU'RE DISOWNED!

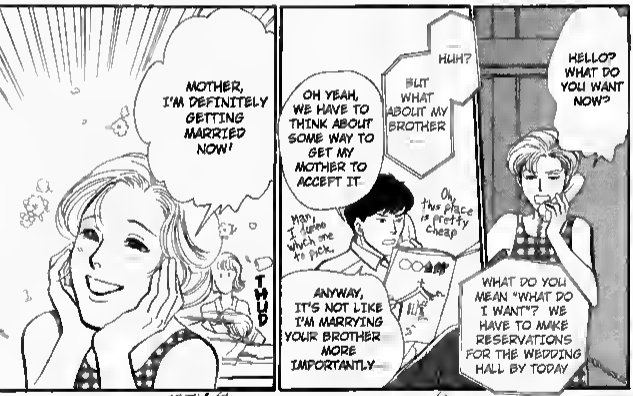
SLAM!
DON'T EVER COME TO THIS HOUSE AGAIN! I DON'T EVER WANT TO SEE THE TWO OF YOU!
MOTHER!
YOU'RE DISOWNED TOO!
EVEN IF YOU BLAME THEIR INABILITY TO GET A MAN ON ME...
YOUR OLDER BROTHER IS AN ADULTERER, WHILE THE YOUNGER ONE IS GAY THERE WILL NEVER BE ANY SUITORS FOR YOU AT THIS RATE!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
TOMOE... I'M SORRY THAT THINGS TURNED OUT LIKE THIS
WHEN MAMA AND I SEPARATE, WILL YOU COME LIVE WITH ME?
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT I'LL BE LIVING WITH MAMA
THROB
THROB
THROB
POOR PAPA
Shameless - Disowned... I can't believe that I...
COULD IT BE THAT YOU'VE NEVER REALLY FALLEN IN LOVE WITH ANYONE BEFORE NOW?
TOMOE
SHE SURE KNOWS HOW TO KICK A DOG WHEN IT'S DOWN
Go wash your hands first~
I want cake~!
She's an Ebi all right
CRUM CRUM

HEY
I CAN IMAGINE WHAT YOU'RE HERE FOR...
BUT PLEASE GIVE ME A BREAK FOR TODAY...
WHAT DID YOU SAY TO KANDA-SAN!?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT SHE TOLD ME!?
NOTHING SHE ASKED ME IF YOU KNOW KNEW ABOUT IT, AND I SAID YES
THAT IT'S PHYSIO-LOGICALLY WRONG!
AND THAT WAS THE END OF IT!
HOW ARE YOU GONNA FIX IT, GEEZ.
AND SO?
UM...
I DIDN'T MEAN
AND SO EVERYTHING'S MY FAULT?
I GET IT! IT ALWAYS IS ANYWAY!

CRAP...
GOROU...!
SORRY FOR MESSING UP YOUR LIFE
I'M SO STUPID
NAOTO?
PAPA...
I JUST TOOK MY ANGER OUT ON SOMEONE
THAT I SHOULD NEVER LASH OUT AT...
TELL GOROU THAT I'M SORRY FOR ME...
HE LOOKED REALLY HURT...
I HEARD ABOUT YUMIKO
THIS THING WITH HAJIME-KUN...
IS PROBABLY ALL MY FAULT...
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN WORRYING A LOT
...YUUJI-SAN.


THAT YOU MARRIED SOMEONE LIKE ME
I'M SO GRATEFUL
HMM?
THANK YOU...

GOROU...?


MOTHER, I'M DEFINITELY GETTING MARRIED NOW!
THUD
OH YEAH, WE HAVE TO THINK ABOUT SOME WAY TO GET MY MOTHER TO ACCEPT IT
HUH?
BUT WHAT ABOUT MY BROTHER...
Man, I don't know which one to pick.
Oh, this place is pretty cheap
ANYWAY, IT'S NOT LIKE I'M MARRYING YOUR BROTHER MORE IMPORTANTLY...
HELLO? WHAT DO YOU WANT NOW?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WHAT DO I WANT"? WE HAVE TO MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR THE WEDDING HALL BY TODAY

WELL, I DIDN'T LIKE IT AT FIRST EITHER...
BUT NOW I THINK IT'S FINE AS LONG AS THEY LOVE EACH OTHER...

YOUR DAD'S WIFE
GOROU'S MOTHER!
WHOSE WIFE?
WIFE?
THAT'S FINE FOR THEM, BUT
WHAT ABOUT HIS WIFE?
HUSBAND
SECOND MARRIAGE
WIFE
HUH...?
STEP-SON
NATURAL SON
MOTHER
SON
WIFE'S CHILD BY FORMER MARRIAGE
I FEEL BAD FOR HER. HER SECOND HUSBAND TURNED OUT TO BE GAY
AND CHEATING ON HER WITH HER SON TOO
THAT'S ALL A BIG MISUNDER-STANDING
MY DAD GOT RE-MARRIED, SO
HE'S MY BROTHER BY LAW
BRO-THER?
OH, SO THAT'S WHY HE'S YOUR BROTHER BY LAW
ALTHOUGH THEY'RE MARRIED, GOROU ENTERED THE FAMILY REGISTRY AS HIS ADOPTED SON
GOROU WOULD BE PAPA'S WIFE
EEEH!?

I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT I SAID TO YOU, AND I'M SORRY
GOROU-CHAN
WANT TO COME WITH ME?
HAHAHA
AHAHAHAHA
OH, SO IT'S ALL OK THEN!
HA
I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAD SUCH A BIG MIS-UNDER-STANDING
IS IT REALLY...!?
WE HAVE SUCH DIFFERENT CUSTOMS THAN YOU DO
OH BUT WE HAVEN'T AGREED TO SUCH A THING YET
HO HO HO
WHAT EVER COULD YOU MEAN?
NICE TO MEET YOU I'M MIDORI ESI'S MOTHER
MY DAUGHTER WILL BE JOINING YOUR SON'S HAND IN MARRIAGE

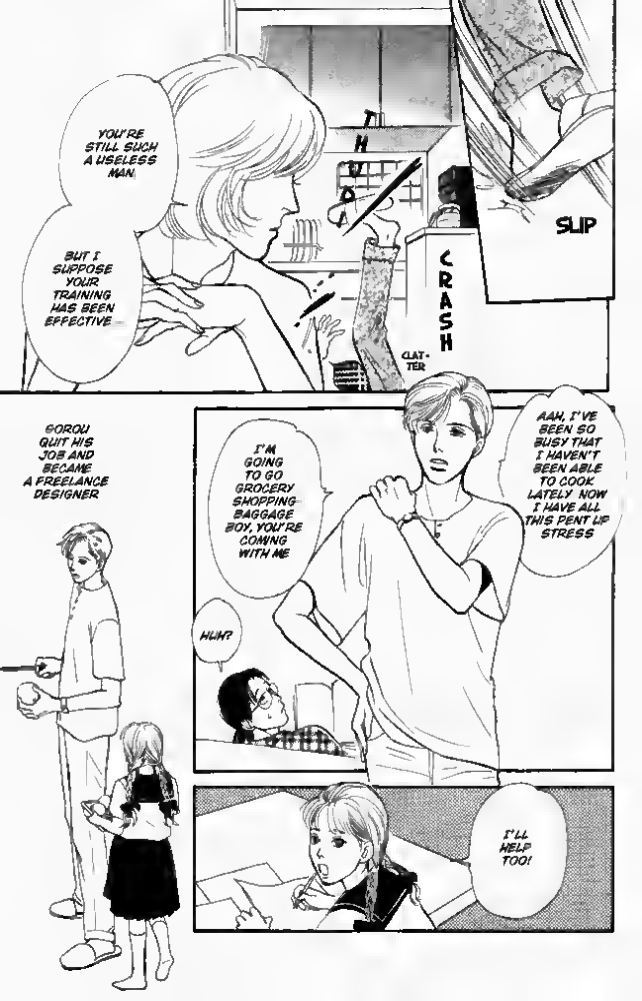
EX-CUSE ME
MOT-HER?
THERE HAS BEEN NO TALK OF MARRIAGE HERE
RIGHT, TAROU-CHAN?
PLEASED TO MEET YOU
I AM MIDORI'S YOUNGER BROTHER, GOROU
GOROU !?
AS YOU WELL KNOW, I AM HOMO-SEXUAL
BUT I IMPLORE YOU,
PLEASE LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.
BUT IN DOING THAT, I MAY RUIN THE HAPPINESS OF MY ONE AND ONLY SISTER I COULD NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF IF THAT HAPPENED
ONE AND ONLY SISTER? BUT YOU HATE THOSE OF THEM.
THAT MAY BE THE CAUSE TO WHY I STARTED SEEKING THE COMPANIONSHIP OF OLDER MEN, TO FIND A FATHER FIGURE FOR ME
OUR FATHER PASSED AWAY AT AN EARLY AGE
UNLIKE MY BROTHER AND SISTERS, I HAVE NO MEMORY OF OUR FATHER
OH, HE'S QUITE CUTE

I'VE BEEN APPOINTED AS MANAGER AT MY COMPANY'S NEW OFFICE IN OSAKA...
I WILL TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SEPARATE FROM THE MAN I AM CURRENTLY SEEING...
I DON'T PLAN TO EVER RETURN TO TOKYO
AND THEN START MY LIFE OVER IN OSAKA BY MYSELF
SO I IMPLORE YOU, PLEASE ACCEPT YOUR SON'S MARRIAGE TO MY SISTER
EVERY-THING IS AS I'VE TOLD YOU...
SO PLEASE
STRANGE THAT THE FIANCE'S MOTHER TURNED OUT TO FEEL BAD ABOUT EVERYTHING
BUT LUCKILY SHE ACCEPTED THE MARRIAGE

EEEH!?
YEA, I ONLY BLURTED THAT OUT... I DIDN'T MEAN FOR YOU TO BREAK UP WITH
YOU BELIEVED ALL OF THAT?
EVERY-THING WORKED OUT THANKS TO GORO-U'S TEARFUL PLEA...
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPLIT UP FOR THIS
WAIT, GORO-CHAN! ARE YOU SERIOUS?
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO PAPA THEN?
SO EVERY-THING'S MY FAULT?
HOWL
I DON'T GET ALONG WITH MY SISTERS THAT WELL TO ACTUALLY GO THROUGH WITH IT-
SORRY, BUT--
OH, YEAH
THAT'D BE BAD
SO WHAT IF THEY FIND OUT LATER--?
I HANDED IN MY LETTER OF RESIG-NATION I'M FREE-LANCING
THEN WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT MOVING TO OSAKA FOR YOUR JOB
IF I RAN TO THEM WITH A STORY LIKE I TOLD JUST NOW,
THEY'D HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT THE MARRIAGE

WELL, WE'VE TRICKED THEM FOR NOW
IT'S UP TO YOU IF YOU STILL WANT TO GET MARRIED
I JUST NEEDED TO RESOLVE EVERYTHING ALL AT ONCE IT WAS FAIRLY EASY TO DO
SINCE I CERTAINLY WASN'T GOING TO SURRENDER THE HAPPINESS THAT I WORKED SO HARD TO REACH
REALLY WANTED TO SEE THEM BREAK UP
WELL...
IF YOU EXCUSE ME, I HAVE TO GO GROCERY SHOPPING FOR TONIGHT
WITH THIS LITTLE INCIDENT, WE UNDERSTOOD IT ALL VERY WELL
THAT BIG FAT LIAR...!
THEY'RE A BOTHERSOME COUPLE
BUT NO ONE
WHISPER WHISPER

IF YOU'RE WONDERING WHAT HAPPENED AFTERWARDS...
DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
CONG-RATU-LATI-ONS!
CONG-RATU-LATI-ONS!
AAH~
IT MIGHT BE NICE TO HAVE ONE LIKE THIS.
BUT I'VE ALREADY HAD ONE BEFORE
THE OLDER EBI BROTHER GOT A DIVORCE
PUNISH-MENT #1
WE'LL CALL YOU BACK TO THE MAIN OFFICES IN OTHER TWO OR THREE YEARS.
HE WAS SENT TO WORK IN ONE OF THEIR WARE-HOUSES
A PE-RIO-TI-ON
ONCE HIS COMPANY FOUND OUT THAT IT WAS DUE TO ANOTHER WOMAN...
WHISPER WHISPER
WILL HE BE ABLE TO OVERCOME THE FIRST AND BIGGEST SETBACK IN HIS LIFE...?
BUT EVEN I HAD TO ACCEPT THEM NOW THAT THEY BOTH HAVE BECOME SINGLE
HAJIME-CHAN, WHERE'S THE TEA?
E-EIGHT!
RATTLE

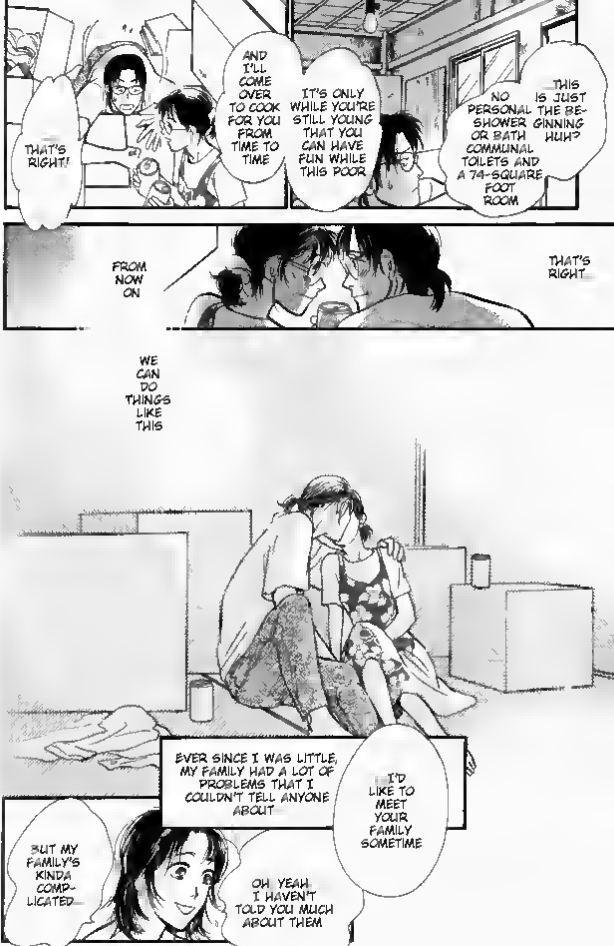

YOU'RE STILL SUCH A USELESS MAN.
BUT I SUPPOSE YOUR TRAINING HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE...
THUD
SLIP
CRASH
CLATTER
GOROU QUIT HIS JOB AND BECAME A FREELANCE DESIGNER
I'M GOING TO GO GROCERY SHOPPING BAGGAGE BOY, YOU'RE COMING WITH ME
HUH?
AAH, I'VE BEEN SO BUSY THAT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO COOK LATELY NOW I HAVE ALL THIS PENT UP STRESS
I'LL HELP TOO!

RIGHT NOW HE WORKS AT HOME AND TAKES CARE OF THE HOUSE
I HAVE SOME SAVINGS BUT IT'S STILL FAR OFF BEFORE I CAN HAVE MY OWN OFFICE
WHEN YUUJI-SAN REACHES RETIREMENT AGE, WE BOTH CAN MANAGE THE OFFICE OR SOMETHING
THAT'S A SOUND FAMILY PLAN THERE
TOMOE, HOW'S SCHOOL GOING?
I FOLLOWED YOUR ADVICE, GORUI-CHAN
TOMOE-CHAN WAS BEING BULLIED AT SCHOOL
I'VE BEEN CUTE AND SMART SINCE KINDERGARTEN SO THAT'S WHY PEOPLE HATE ME
I WENT AND FOUND THE MOST TIMID GIRL IN MY CLASS
AND TALKED TO HER WHEN I GOT HER ALONE
I WON'T BE BULLIED WHEN I'M ONE ON ONE VERSUS SUCH A TIMID GIRL, AND I'D BE ABLE TO TALK TO HER
THERE'S NO HELPING IT
IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY WHEN YOU GET AT LEAST ONE PERSON YOU'RE ABLE TO TALK TO
AND IT'D BE GOOD TO WATCH HER CAREFULLY AND TRY TO FIND OUT ANY WEAKNESSES TO USE AS A WEAPON.
THOSE TWO ARE ALIKE ON SO MANY LEVELS
BE SURE NOT TO LET HER GO

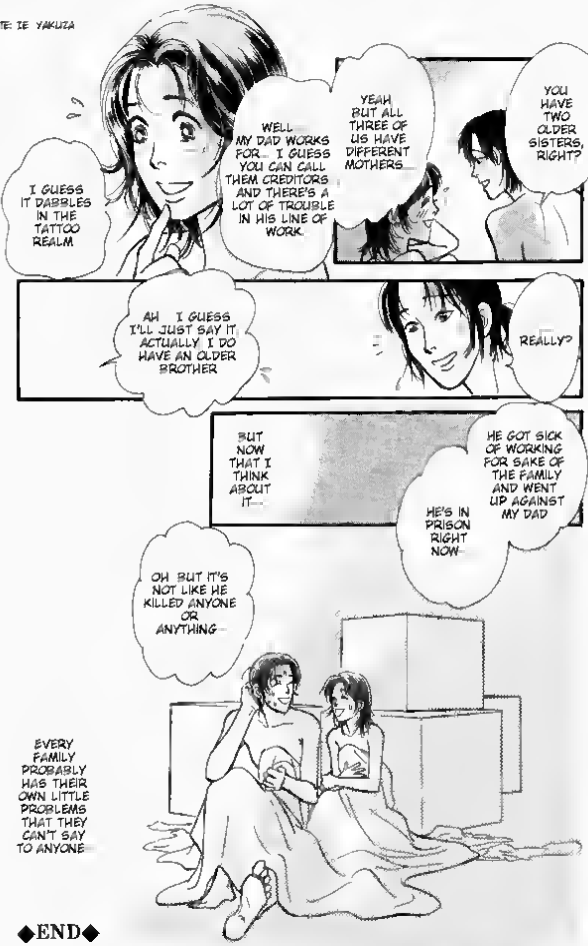
IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT ANYONE CAN GO TO THEIR DAD'S WEDDING.
YOU WANT TO GO?
IS PAPA GOING TO HOLD A WEDDING CEREMONY?
CAN I GO TOO?
I FORESEE A LOT OF HARDSHIPS FOR YOU IN YOUR FUTURE
TOMOE-CHAN
JUST WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY!?
IT'LL BE A CINCH FOR YOU, TOMOE-CHAN
BUT YOU'LL BE ALRIGHT. EVEN GOROU WAS ABLE TO FIND SOMEONE THAT HE LOVED AND TO BECOME HAPPY
I THOUGHT THAT IT WAS GOROU'S FAULT THAT I WASN'T ABLE TO GET MARRIED BUT I THINK I MAY NEED TO SURVEY SOME PEOPLE AGAIN.
MIDORI AND HAJIME-NIISAN ARE BOTH MARRYING
I TOLD HIM HE WAS DISOWNED! I'M NOT GOING!
THEY'RE NOT EVEN ASHAMED OF THEMSELVES OR ANYTHING
A WEDDING INVITATION!?

PUTAMA, WAS THAT ALL YOU WANTED TO SAY?
IT'S ALSO SO SELF-IN-YOU!!!!! YOU KNOW...
THEN THERE'S ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT.
I JUST NEED TO TRY HARDER.
IS THAT WHAT IT WAS?
YOU'RE TEN MINUTES LATE, JERK.
OH...
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SO VIOLENT
THE REASON I DIDN'T MARRY YOU ISN'T BECAUSE YOUR BROTHER IS GAY
WHERE'S MOTHER?
SHE WOULDN'T COME
IT'LL TAKE THREE YEARS FOR HER TO COME AROUND
AFTER SUBMITTING THEIR MARRIAGE REGISTRATION OUR FAMILIES WENT OUT FOR DINNER TOGETHER. IT WAS A SIMPLE AFFAIR
MAMA AND THE EBI BROTHER GOT MARRIED
THANK YOU FOR COMING, EVERYONE

CONGRATULATIONS!
THIS IS NICE WE SHOULD HAVE HAD A WEDDING TOO
A FAMILY IS SOMETHING THAT KEEPS GROWING AND MULTIPLYING
DON'T GET CAUGHT UP IN THE MOMENT... YOU IDIOT COUPLE!
PAPA AUNTIE, CONGRATULATIONS
I GOT A NEW STEP-SISTER WHO'S FOURTEEN YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME
SUDDENLY
TAKE GOOD CARE OF MAMA NOW
'PAPA'
AND A NEW STEP-FATHER WHO'S ONLY OLDER BY THIRTEEN YEARS
I FINALLY LEFT HOME AND STARTED LIVING ON MY OWN.
THUD
WHOA!


THAT'S RIGHT!
AND I'LL COME OVER TO COOK FOR YOU FROM TIME TO TIME
IT'S ONLY WHILE YOU'RE STILL YOUNG THAT YOU CAN HAVE FUN WHILE THIS POOR
NO PERSONAL SHOWER OR BATH COMMUNAL TOILETS AND A 74-SQUARE FOOT ROOM
THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING HUH?
FROM NOW ON
THAT'S RIGHT
WE CAN DO THINGS LIKE THIS
EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE, MY FAMILY HAD A LOT OF PROBLEMS THAT I COULDN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT
I'D LIKE TO MEET YOUR FAMILY SOMETIME
BUT MY FAMILY'S KINDA COMPLICATED...
OH, YEAH I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU MUCH ABOUT THEM

NOTE: IE YAKUZA


I GUESS IT DABBLES IN THE TATTOO REALM
WELL MY DAD WORKS FOR— I GUESS YOU CAN CALL THEM CREDITORS AND THERE'S A LOT OF TROUBLE IN HIS LINE OF WORK
YEAH BUT ALL THREE OF US HAVE DIFFERENT MOTHERS
YOU HAVE TWO OLDER SISTERS, RIGHT?
AH I GUESS I'LL JUST SAY IT. ACTUALLY I DO HAVE AN OLDER BROTHER
REALLY?
BUT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT—
HE GOT SICK OF WORKING FOR SAKE OF THE FAMILY AND WENT UP AGAINST MY DAD
HE'S IN PRISON RIGHT NOW—
OH BUT IT'S NOT LIKE HE KILLED ANYONE OR ANYTHING—
EVERY FAMILY PROBABLY HAS THEIR OWN LITTLE PROBLEMS THAT THEY CAN'T SAY TO ANYONE—

◆END◆

Free Talk

THANK YOU FOR READING THIS MANGA
WHICH DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A SINGLE LOVE SCENE IN IT
TO MUCH REGRET. THE HIGHLY PUBLICIZED 'BISEINEN',
EBIGORO WAS NOT AT ALL VERY BEAUTIFUL.....
ANYWAY, EVERYTHING WAS ALL RESOLVED IN ONE VOLUME
THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH!

Special Thanks

HONA-CHAN FUKUSHI-SAN WATANABE-SAN
RUI-SAN HIGASHINO-SAN HATORI-SAN
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP!

ADULT'S PROBLEM

今 市子

ICHIKO • IMA

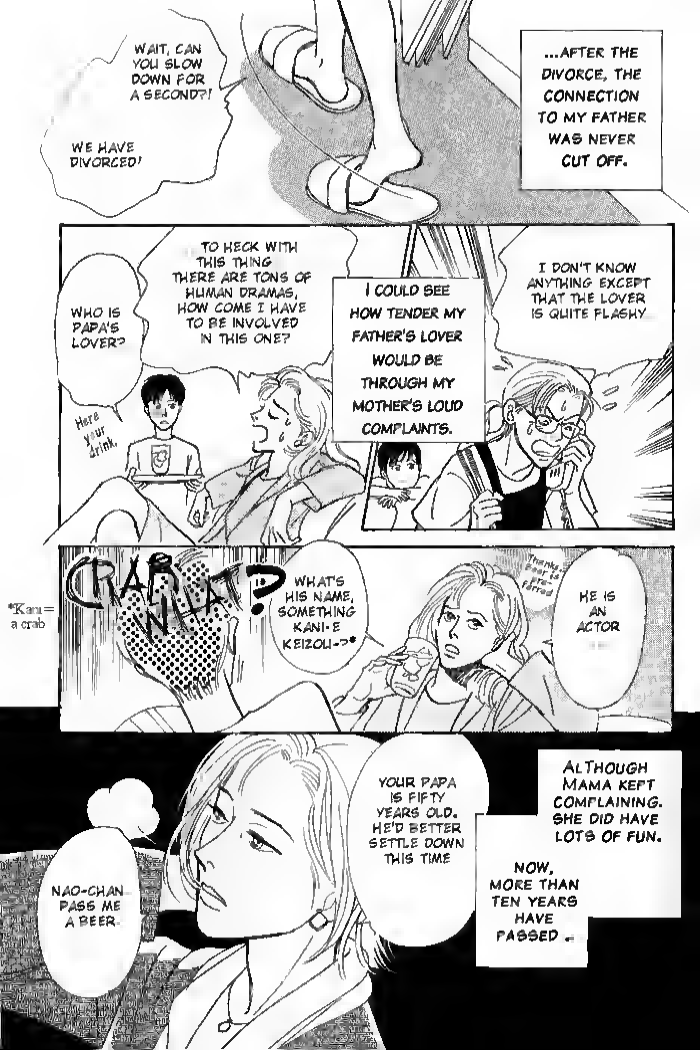
大人の問題

SCANNER, TRANSLATOR *FIFAY*
TEXT EDITOR, EDITOR *REM*

Join us at Fifay.net

MY PARENTS ARE DIVORCING
WAH, WE SHALL GO OUR OWN WAY
WE REALLY OUGHT TO HAVE DONE IT EARLIER, RIGHT?
OK, NAO-CHAN, SAY "BYE-BYE" TO PAPA.
WHY DO I HAVE TO SAY "BYE-BYE" TO PAPA?
BECAUSE PAPA IS GAY
WHAT IS GAY?
OH, EH, YUMIKO, IN FRONT OF THE KID...
TELL ME NOW WHAT IS GAY!
YOU SEE, NAO-CHAN, THERE ARE MANY PROBLEMS IN THE WORLD OF AN ADULT
I WILL LET YOU KNOW WHEN YOU ARE OLDER
...WE ONLY CAME HERE FOR THE "BYE-BYE"
NAWW!! WHAT IS GAY?!
THIS KID IS SO DUMB!!
THERE HAS BEEN SOMETHING IN MY FAMILY WHICH CANNOT BE TOLD TO ANYONE

WHEN I WAS FIVE YEARS OLD I LEARNT PAPA WAS "GAY." MY PARENTS HAPPILY DIVORCED.
ADULT'S PROBLEM I


WAIT, CAN YOU SLOW DOWN FOR A SECOND?!
WE HAVE DIVORCED!
...AFTER THE DIVORCE, THE CONNECTION TO MY FATHER WAS NEVER CUT OFF.
WHO IS PAPA'S LOVER?
TO HECK WITH THIS THING THERE ARE TONS OF HUMAN DRAMAS. HOW COME I HAVE TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS ONE?
Here's your drink.
I COULD SEE HOW TENDER MY FATHER'S LOVER WOULD BE THROUGH MY MOTHER'S LOUD COMPLAINTS.
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING EXCEPT THAT THE LOVER IS QUITE FLASHY.
CRAB...WHAT?
WHAT'S HIS NAME, SOMETHING KANI-E KEIZOU-?*
Thanks, I'll be careful
HE IS AN ACTOR
*Kani= a crab
NAO-CHAN PASS ME A BEER.
YOUR PAPA IS FIFTY YEARS OLD. HE'D BETTER SETTLE DOWN THIS TIME
ALTHOUGH MAMA KEPT COMPLAINING. SHE DID HAVE LOTS OF FUN.
NOW, MORE THAN TEN YEARS HAVE PASSED...

PAPA IS GETTING MARRIED...
...PAPA IS NOT GAY ANY -MORE?!
Pan
YOU LOOK TIRED. TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED.
HUMPH, HE CALLED ME AT MY OFFICE
Marry?
NOT "NOT GAY ANYMORE". HE'S GOING TO MARRY A MAN.
HOW?
BEER
GHT
THERE IS NO WAY THAT GAYS CAN GET MARRIED IN A FORMAL WAY
SO HE IS GOING TO ADOPT HIM, SO HE CAN CHANGE THE SURNAME
THERE IS NOTHING TO DO WITH MAMA! WE DIVORCED I AM NOT HIS WOMAN ANYMORE!
BUT, YOU ARE STILL REGISTERED UNDER PAPA'S NAME. AREN'T YOU HIS SON?!
OK, OK! I HEARD YOU STOP YELLING !
YOU'RE JOKING MAMA ALONE IS ENOUGH FOR THAT KIND OF THING
WE HAVE TO BE INTRODUCED WE FOUR WILL BE HAVING A MEAL TOGETHER.

LOOK, MAMA DOESN'T LIKE IT EITHER... DON'T WORRY!
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO SEE PAPA AGAIN. IT WON'T BE ANOTHER FAREWELL DINNER.
WE'LL SIMPLY POP IN TO CONGRATULATE THEM...
...OKAY, BUT I WON'T ACKNOWLEDGE A CRAB-THING AS MY "MAMA."
...YOU TWO WILL MAKE A PAIR OF THE MOST STUPID SONS IN THE WORLD.
READY? HERE WE GO, BE GOOD!
HELLO THERE PAPA!
NAOTO!
YOU'VE GROWN SO BIG!
PAPA IS QUITE LIVELY TONIGHT.
MARRYING THAT KANIE KEIZOU IS PERKING HIM UP.
WHEN DID YOU START UNIVERSITY?
HUH ...?!

THIS IS...
HOW DO YOU DO? ...I AM EBI.
PAPA'S LOVE INTEREST HAS CHANGED?!
WELL,
THAT'S NOT KANIE KEIZOU.
WHAT?
Jewelry Designer
Ebi Gorou
WELL NOW--!
..."SEA" AND "OLD" IN KANJI TOGETHER FORM "EBI."

YES, IT IS
YOU MEAN, LIKE A DESIGNER FOR RINGS AND ACCESSORIES?
WHAT A SPLENDID OCCUPATION.
DON'T LAUGH!!
CRAP! DON'T LAUGH!!
WHAT? THAT GUY IS ONLY SIX YEARS OLDER?!
CERTAINLY, HE IS TWENTY -SIX.
HE LOOKS AWFULLY YOUNG IS THAT OKAY?
PLEASE EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT
WELL HMM
SURE, SURE, HE'S GOOD
TRULY, I'M HAPPY FOR YOU
YOU JUST SAW HOW CULTIVATED HE WAS
WELL
A GOOD KID WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR HALF A YEAR

*Kani in Japanese means crab *Ebi in Japanese means lobster

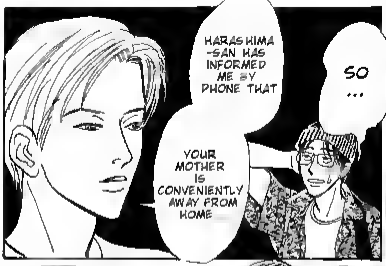
HO HO HO
HOW SAD! HE WAS SUCH A BISEINEN*!!
"GOROU, THE LOBSTER"!!
HA HA AHAHA
HA
*"Biseinen" means a gorgeous young man
HA
AWW, COME ON, HAVE SOME COMPASSION! MANY PEOPLE HAVE STRANGE NAMES.
I'M GOING TO LAUGH TO DEATH AT THIS RATE, I'M GOING TO BURY MY YOUTH!!
HO HO
YOU FORGOT THIS
HAHAHA

AH, SORRY FOR TROUBLING YOU
WHEN I MARRY HARASHIMA-SAN,
I WILL BE ABLE TO CHANGE MY SURNAME
THEREFORE, I WILL BECOME HARASHIMA GOROU

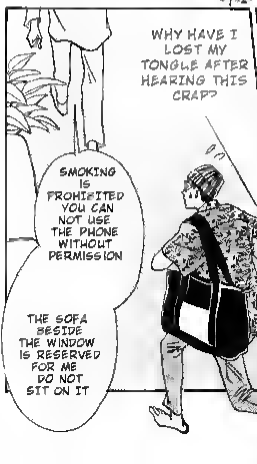
...OBVIOUSLY, HE'S MARRYING FOR THE NAME. THAT GUY ISN'T MARRYING FOR LOVE.
IT'S OK. IT WON'T LAST LONG.
...I DON'T LIKE HIM EITHER. I DON'T LIKE THIS THING ONE BIT.
MAMA, YOU DON'T AGREE WITH THE "MARRIAGE"?
THAT GUY IS WAY TOO YOUNG. I BET THAT HE'LL BREAK THINGS OFF IN NO TIME.
I MEAN, IF HE ENDS UP GETTING ADOPTED, HE WILL BE YOUR "O-NII-SAN."
ISN'T THAT FUNNY NAO-CHAN?

SFX: DON!
THOSE GAYS, IN ORDER TO DISGUISE THEIR MARRIAGE, ONE ADOPTED THE ANOTHER.
EVEN IF THE FACE LOOKS GOOD, THE PERSONALITY CAN BE WEIRD. THAT GUY ...
THE DIVORCE CAME ABOUT SINCE HE LIKED OTHER MEN.
DIDN'T YOU CATCH IT ON TV YESTERDAY?
WHAT? HOW DO YOU KNOW?
I CAN'T LET HER FIND OUT ABOUT MY PAPA'S SECRET EVER!
KAMIDA -SAN...
WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE NOW!!
AHH!?
MAMA'S AT HOKKAIDO ON BUSINESS TRIP.
PAPA?
WHA... WHAT IS IT?
NAOTO, WHERE IS YOUR MAMA?
BAM BAM BAM

LISTEN UP! I'M SCARED GOROU MIGHT BREAK IT OFF.
GO GET YOUR STUFF AND LEAVE!
HUH?
THE LOBSTER = GOROU
YOU GUYS WILL BE UTTERLY SHOCKED WHEN YOU MEET HIM.
WAIT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE SURNAME INCIDENT? YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?!
I ALSO HAVE TO GO ON A BUSINESS TRIP TODAY!
WATCH OVER GOROU FOR ME WHEN I'M GONE YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE A BIT OF THE RESPONSIBILITY, YOU KNOW!
HOW CAN I DO THAT?!
IT'S NOT MY PROBLEM!
I DON'T THINK A NORMAL FATHER WOULD ASK HIS SON TO DO THIS KIND OF STUFF!
I MADE A FUN OF THE GUY'S NAME...
I CAN'T JUST WALTZ OVER AND...
BAM
...AS I SAID, MY FATHER IS NOT NORMAL


HARASHIMA -SAN HAS INFORMED ME BY PHONE THAT
YOUR MOTHER IS CONVENIENTLY AWAY FROM HOME
SO ...

IT IS FINE FOR YOU TO LIVE HERE SINCE I AM NOT SUPPOSED TO LOOK AFTER YOU. YOU WILL LOOK AFTER YOUR OWN BUSINESS
WAIT A MINUTE, WHAT THE HECK IS HAPPENING?


WHY HAVE I LOST MY TONGUE AFTER HEARING THIS CRAP?
SMOKING IS PROHIBITED YOU CAN NOT USE THE PHONE WITHOUT PERMISSION
THE SOFA BESIDE THE WINDOW IS RESERVED FOR ME DO NOT SIT ON IT

EH?
THIS GUY IS TYRING TO TELL ME SOMETHING
YOU ARE WELCOME TO USE THE ELECTRICITY AND WATER FOR FREE WE WILL EACH COOK FOR OURSELVES YOU SHOULD PAY FOR YOUR OWN FOOD
WE WILL CLEAN UP THINGS SEPARATELY BE SURE TO CLEAN THE BATHROOM AFTER USE.

YOU ARE TO STAY IN HARASHIMA-SAN'S BEDROOM
HE IS NOW QUITE ASSERTIVE.
WHY DO I HAVE TO BE THE SON OF THIS STUPID GUY?!
PON
SA SA
KA SO
I AM DONE WITH THE KITCHEN YOU CAN USE IT
HUH?.. WELL

SAY, DO YOU DISLIKE ME OR SOMETHING?
NO.
I DON'T ENGAGE IN CONFLICT WITH OTHERS.
THE RESULT
CUP N
I GUESS THIS GUY MUST HAVE THOROUGHLY THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT HE'LL DO AFTER THE MARRIAGE?
CAN I ASK YOU ONE QUESTION?
HOW DID YOU MEET MY PA...MY FATHER?
WE MET IN A GAY STORE,
IN WHAT'S CALLED AN EXPANSION BAR
E . E ... EX ... ERR ... YOU MEAN,
SOMEONE CAN BE EXPANDED INTO A GAY?

SORRY! I DON'T WANT TO LISTEN TO THIS ANYMORE!!
GA
OH, YEAH I GOT EXPANDED AT FIVE BY MY RELATIVE'S BROTHER WHO LIVED NEARBY
.....
DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?
DOH
YES, IT IS.
WHAT?
!
ABOUT THIS GAY THING,
IS IT GENETIC -ALLY INHERIT -ABLE?
GA
IT IS, INDEED.

IT'S FASHIONABLE
CAN I ALSO ASK A QUESTION?
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS WEAR THAT CAP?

YOU GUYS WILL BE UTTERLY SHOCKED WHEN YOU MEET HIM.
GET YOUR STUFF AND LEAVE.
A GOOD KID

.. WAIT SECOND. SO THERE'S ONLY THIS GAY MAN AND I HERE ...ALONE... ONLY THE TWO OF US?!
DOH
DID THAT GUY JUST LOOK BACK FOR NO REASON ...
HUH?
WHAT A LOAD OF CRAP. CAN YOU STOP TRICKING ME, PAPA?

AS REPORTED, GAYS SOMETIMES ATTACK STRAIGHT MEN
WHAT AM I DOING HERE ALONE?
BE CAREFUL
I MIGHT POUNCE
GOOD NIGHT
I'M REALLY HATING THIS.
HELLO, IS THAT NAOTO?
GOOD, YOU WENT
HOW IS GOROU DOING?
PAPA, WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?
YOU CAN GO HOME IN THE MORNING I FORBID YOU TO LEAVE UNTIL THEN
PA..
I'M WORRIED IS HE ALRIGHT?
WHAT HAS GOROU SAID TO YOU?
PAPA, WERE YOU WORRIED WHEN YOU MARRIED MAMA?
COULD THIS BE A FAKE MARRIAGE?! AS IN A TOTALLY LOVELESS MARRIAGE?!
WHAT?

WHY DO YOU ASK THAT? THIS IS NOT A LOVELESS MARRIAGE
PAPA'S GAY FROM THE VERY BEGINNING
ガチャ
NAO?!

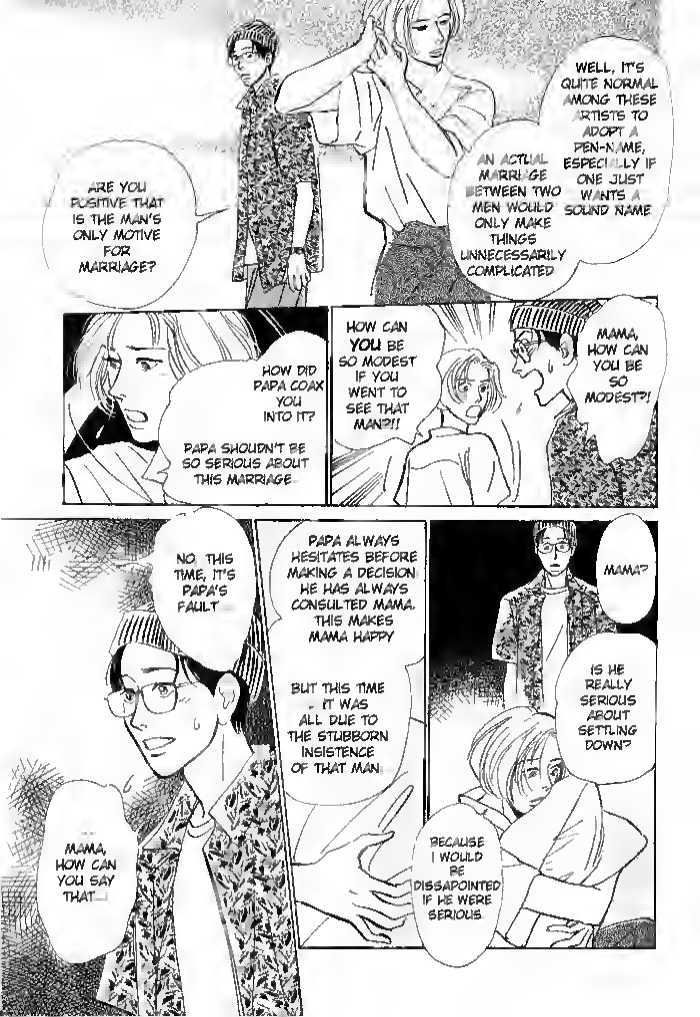
UMM...
UMM... SORRY, DID YOU WANT TO TALK TO HIM?
NO THERE ISN'T ANYTHING I WANT TO CALL HIM ABOUT
YOU WOKE UP?...IT WAS PA ...MY FATHER. I PROMISED HIM.

SHOULDN'T A GAY SUFFER FROM LOVE, AS ONE SUFFERS FROM THE SUMMER'S HEAT?
WANT A DRINK?
DOES HE REALLY LOVE PAPA?
HMM AGAIN
kachin
I PLAN TO BREAK THROUGH, AND SOME DAY STAND ON MY OWN TWO FEET.
WHY DO YOU
WANT TO MARRY MY FATHER?
DESIGNER EBI GOROU? OR GOROU THE LOBSTER?
DO YOU THINK ANYBODY CAN SELL A BRAND WITH SUCH A HICCUP?
ISN'T "HARASHIMA GOROU" A BETTER NAME?
ALL MEN DESIRE TO BUILD UP A CAREER I AM A DESIGNER
I HAVE NOTIONS OF MAKING MY NAME IN THE WORLD

ARE YOU ENVISIONING MARRIAGE AS BEING FREE OF PERSONAL AGENDAS?
DID YOUR PARENTS MARRY IN THAT FASHION?
A UNION BASED SIMPLY ON LOVE.
I SHOULD LIKE TO TRY THAT WITH A PURE-HEARTED KID LIKE YOU
... HOLD UP. EVERYTHING YOU JUST SAID,
... HAVE YOU TOLD MY MY FATHER ANY OF IT?
SURE, I HAVE CLICKED ON YOU
... HAVE YOU CLICKED ON ME?
PAN

I SHOULD HAVE STAYED HOME.
I'M GOING TO TELL MY FATHER WHAT HAPPENED.
IF SOMEONE'S NEW LOVER RUNS AWAY, WHICH ONE WILL HE TURN TO FOR CONSOLATION? THE WIFE, OR THE SON?
GET REAL.
IS THERE A LOCK ON THE DOOR?
I'M GOING TO FULFILL MY DUTY AND STAY HERE —TONIGHT ONLY!
... TO HELL WITH THAT GUY!
click
ANYWAY, PAPA THINKS THAT
THAT GUY IS BETTER THAN MAMA AND ME.
—I'LL PAY FOR MY FOOD—
HARASHIMA -SAN WILL PAY FOR IT LATER, AFTER THE CALCULATIONS ARE MADE

OUT-RAGEOUS!
SO
OF COURSE
YOU REALLY WANT TO MARRY ?
EVEN BETTER
THERE IS NOTHING FURTHER TO DISCUSS BETWEEN US
EVEN IF MAMA WILL NOT SAY ANYTHING, I WILL DEFINITELY OPPOSE THIS MARRIAGE
JUST BECAUSE HE WANTS TO BE AN INDEPENDENT DESIGNER HE'LL STEAL PAPA'S LAST NAME WHAT A LOAD OF CRAP!
DID PAPA ASK YOU TO MEET HIM?
HE REALLY IS MARRYING FOR OUR NAME!
WE CAN'T ALLOW THAT GUY TO DO IT, I MEAN THAT LOBSTER GUY!
DID YOU GO TO SEE HIM?
MAMA, YOU'RE HOME!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?


WELL, IT'S QUITE NORMAL AMONG THESE ARTISTS TO ADOPT A PEN-NAME, ESPECIALLY IF ONE JUST WANTS A SOUND NAME
AN ACTUAL MARRIAGE BETWEEN TWO MEN WOULD ONLY MAKE THINGS UNNECESSARILY COMPLICATED
ARE YOU POSITIVE THAT IS THE MAN'S ONLY MOTIVE FOR MARRIAGE?
HOW DID PAPA COAX YOU INTO IT?
PAPA SHOULDN'T BE SO SERIOUS ABOUT THIS MARRIAGE
HOW CAN YOU BE SO MODEST IF YOU WENT TO SEE THAT MAN?!!
MAMA, HOW CAN YOU BE SO MODEST?!
NO. THIS TIME, IT'S PAPA'S FAULT
PAPA ALWAYS HESITATES BEFORE MAKING A DECISION. HE HAS ALWAYS CONSULTED MAMA. THIS MAKES MAMA HAPPY
BUT THIS TIME ... IT WAS ALL DUE TO THE STUBBORN INSISTENCE OF THAT MAN
MAMA, HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT...
MAMA?
IS HE REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT SETTLING DOWN?
BECAUSE I WOULD BE DISSAPOINTED IF HE WERE SERIOUS

CRYING WOULDN'T HAVE HELPED IF I HADN'T STOOD UP AND DEALT WITH IT.
I MIND AS WELL DIE
MY HUSBAND WAS LEAVING ME TO BE WITH ANOTHER PERSON, FOR THE SAKE OF HIS OWN HAPPINESS.
WHAT CHOICE DID I HAVE BUT TO ACCEPT IT CALMLY?
WE SHALL GO OUR OWN WAY.
WE REALLY OUGHT TO HAVE DONE IT EARLIER.
YOU WERE QUITE CALM WHEN YOU DIVORCED.
EVER SINCE CHILDHOOD THERE S BEEN SOMETHING IN MY FAMILY WHICH CANNOT BE MENTIONED.
SHOULD I HAVE BEHAVED LIKE A CHILD AND MADE A BIG FUSS?
ALL YOUR LUGGAGE'S BEEN LOADED PLEASE SIGN HERE...MMM...
EBI -SAN. CAS A LOB -STER?

HELLO, PAPA?
NAOTO? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THAT KID COULDN'T TELL A LIE EVEN IF HE WANTED TO!
THIS ISN'T A JOKE PAPA. HE DIDN'T LOVE YOU WITH HIS WHOLE HEART.
PAPA?
I JUST GOT BACK BUT GOROU'S NOT HOME
HE LEFT!
ALL HIS STUFF IS GONE
YOU, IN CONTRAST, ARE AN EXCELLENT COAXER!
WHAT DID GOROU SAY TO YOU?

DO I WANT TO MARRY FOR LOVE?
OF COURSE.
I SHOULD LIKE TO TRY IT WITH A PURE HEARTED KID.
IF THERE IS A CHANCE.

I SEE CIRCULAR HAIR LOSS
GA—!!
YOU?!

CATCHING A BIG FISH LIKE ME WOULD BE A WILD GOOSE CHASE FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU—A 24/7 JOB!
Huh?
YOU TRY IT!

YOU SHITTY OPPORTUNIST!
YOU MADE ME A LIAR IN FRONT OF PAPA
MY LUGGAGE IS NOW IN STORAGE FIRST OF ALL, I MUST CONSIDER FINDING A HOTEL FOR TONIGHT
WHAT...?
HAVE YOU NEVER SEEN A BALD GUY? WHERE WERE YOU HIDING?
IT IS USUALLY CAUSED BY SUPERFLUOUS MENTAL STRESS
KEEP TEASING A GAY WITH THAT NAME AND YOU'LL MAKE HIM A A SHITTIER OPPORTUNIST
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
HEY, LOBSTER
LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE BEEN DEFEATED
IT IS VERY REGRET-TABLE

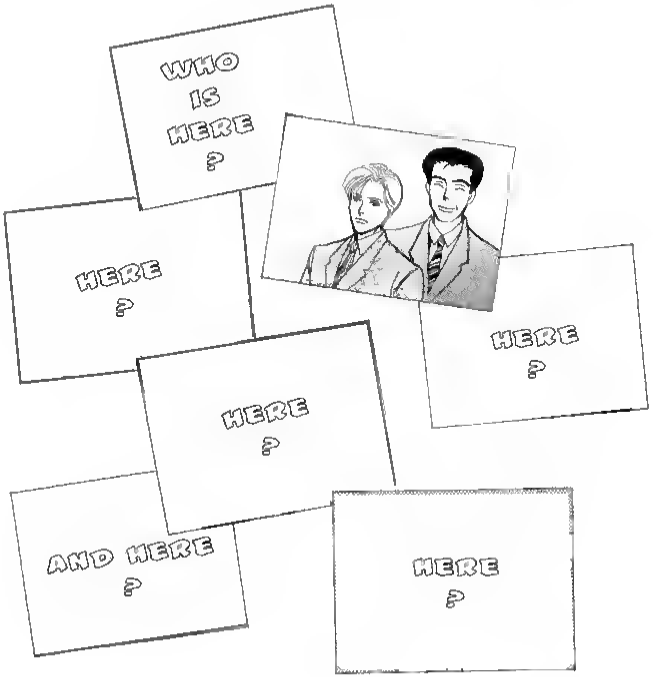
WHAT?!
YOUR HOME.
BUT IT SEEMS TO CONFUSE YOU EVEN MORE
DOES IT UNWITTINGLY SERVE AS A SOUVENIR OF REPROACH?
I HAVE BROKEN UP WITH HARASHIMA -SAN.
AN ENGAGE -MENT RING?
MADAM, PLEASE MAKE UP WITH HIM
I UNDERSTOOD HOW MUCH YOU NEEDED HIM AFTER THAT DINNER MEETING.
I DESIGNED IT AS A GIFT FOR YOU.
YOU'RE MISTAKEN!
MADAM, YOU AND YOUR SON ARE STILL VERY MUCH ATTACHED TO HIM.
SLOW DOWN, WILL YOU?!

THIS IS THE REASON FOR THE RIFT.
I KNOW WHERE HARASHIMA-SAN'S HAPPINESS LIES.
THAT MAN HAS ABANDONED US TO PURSUE HIS OWN HAPPINESS.
WE ALL AGREED THAT HE SHOULD DO WHATEVER WILL MAKE HIM HAPPY.
WAIT! ARE YOU SERIOUSLY GOING TO THROW THAT WORTHLESS MAN BACK TO US?
I WILL NOT SLEEP WITH HIM ANYMORE.
EXCUSE ME.
JUST WAIT A SECOND!
MADAM,
I AM THE WORTHLESS OPPORTUNIST.
HOWEVER HARASHIMA-SAN HAS BRIGHTENED MY LIFE...
AS NO ONE ELSE COULD.

PAPA? EBI GOROU IS HERE RIGHT NOW
COME PICK HIM UP AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN, OKAY?
IT'S TRUE THAT I'M STILL ATTACHED TO HIM.
I'M HAPPY WHEN HE CONSULTS ME FOR SOMETHING I'LL BE VERY LONELY WITHOUT HIM
I'LL BE UNHAPPY IF HE DOESN'T COME ANYMORE
DON'T BE OFF PUT BY THAT KID'S BEHAVIOUR HE JUST LOVES HIS PAPA.
I HAVE SOMETHING I MUST TO SAY!
I DO NOT HAVE THAT CONFI-DENCE
GO MARRY HIM IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!
BECAUSE HIS FATHER IS GAY I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER OTHERS KNOW ABOUT IT. I'M WORRIED WHETHER IT'S INHERITABLE
YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF STRESS MAKES A TWENTY-YEAR-OLD MAN LOSE HIS HAIR?
I'M WORRIED ABOUT HOW LONG I CAN CONCEAL IT FROM THE GIRL I LOVE
LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY!
NAOTO?

SO THERE YOU HAVE IT. THIS IS THE LIFE OF MY PARENTS.
EVEN SO, THEY ARE CONSTANTLY STRIVING TOWARDS SOMETHING VALUABLE.
...MY, YOU'RE QUITE STUPID YOU'VE WORRIED YOURSELF INTO LOSING YOUR HAIR...
IT'S NO LAUGHING MATTER! I MUST ASK YOU TO LISTEN UP RIGHT NOW AT THIS MOMENT!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT.
WHEN YOU'RE THE SON OF A GAY MAN, YOU DISCOVER A LOT OF ANXIETY...
THAT YOU HAVE TO SIT ON!
MAMA USED TO TALK ABOUT HUMAN DRAMAS...
THE TRAGEDY OF LIFE IS THAT ONE CANNOT CHOOSE ONE'S OWN BIRTH. A TRAGEDY NEVER HAS A HAPPY ENDING
I STARTED LOOSING HAIR AT AGE FIVE!
◆END◆

MORE STORIES ...



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